Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

DUMA ELECTION ISSUES

Key Developments

Daily: Yeltsin 'Bought' Off TsIK Before Illness *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 11 Nov]* .. 1
Yabloko Seeks To Disband Electoral Commission *[Moscow Radio]* 1
Electoral Commission Registers 42 Organizations *[INTERFAX]* 1
TsIK Casts Lots To Determine Air Time Order *[INTERFAX]* 2
Zhirinovskiy Claims KRO Tried To Bribe Him *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 11 Nov]* ... 3
Gaydar Explains Democratic Choice's Platform *[Moscow Radio]* 3
Ivan Rybkin's Bloc Approves Election Program *[INTERFAX]* 3
'89' Seen Counting on Regions, Urging Faster Reform *[SEGODNYA 10 Nov]* 3
Sterligov Accuses TsIK of Discrimination *[Moscow RTV]* 4
Public TV To Air Debates, Roundtable Discussions *[ITAR-TASS]* 5

Regional Activities

Chechen Political Forces Oppose Duma Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Bryansk Seen Likely To Vote For CPRF, KRO *[INTERFAX]* 5
Daily Views Election Campaign in Omsk Oblast *[SEGODNYA 9 Nov]* 5

Election Guidelines

Officials, Party Leaders View Amendment of Election Law 6
Krasnov: 'Too Late' To Revise Law *[INTERFAX]* 6
Skokov Attacks Election Law Critics *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Democratic Choice Against Changing Law *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Isakov Views 5-Percent Barrier *[INTERFAX]* 7
Zhirinovskiy Opposes Amendments *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Ryabov Favors Keeping 5-Percent Hurdle *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Shumeyko Supports Postponement *[Moscow NTV]* 8

Forecasts & Commentary

Rybkin's Late Entry Makes Good Preelection Showing *[IZVESTIYA 10 Nov]* 8
Duma Elections Seen 'Impossible To Guarantee' *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 10 Nov]* 9

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Nov 11

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Grachev on Russian Peacekeeping in Bosnia *[Moscow ORT]* 12
Composition of Contingent Detailed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Nov]* 13
Politicians Could Still Sink Plan for Bosnia *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 Nov]* 13
Efforts To Lift Yugoslav Sanctions Discussed at UN *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Moscow To Ship Diesel Fuel to Former Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Special Financing Needed for Russian NATO Operations *[ITAR-TASS]* 15

Moscow Said To Still Favor Meeting on Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 16
Official Welcomes Agreement on Eastern Slavonia *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Moscow Anxious Over Tudjman Statement *[Radio Rossii]* 17
Presidential Press Service on Yeltsin-Grachev Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Yeltsin Orders Division to Remain in Moldova *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Grachev on Reorganization in Dniester *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Germ, Chemical Weapons Storage Denied *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Ministry Source on Alterations Needed to CFE Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 18
Disarmament Expert: ABM Treaty Should Not be Revised *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Federation Council Protests NATO's Eastward Expansion *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Nov]* 19
Yeltsin Endorses Statute on Council of Europe Commission *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Cossacks Demonstrate, Threaten Action in Kazakhstan *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 20
Foreign Ministry Disagrees Over Treaty With DPRK *[INTERFAX]* 20
Karabakh Talks End in Moscow; Disagreements Remain *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russo-Macedonian Political Consultations Held in Skopje *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Chernomyrdin Receives French Finance Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Duma Deputy Adopts Pro-Iran Stand on Caspian *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 4 Nov]* 22

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin, Mayor Luzhkov Hold 'Substantial' Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Yeltsin Forms Commission on Council of Europe Membership *[SEGODNYA 10 Nov]* 24
Yeltsin Approves Ministry's Aid to Foreign States *[INTERFAX]* 24
Yeltsin Calls For Review of Federation Council Law *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Yeltsin Rejects Law on Status of Deputies *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Rejects Law on Federally Owned Shares *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Rejects Law on Stable Energy Supplies *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Promotes Interior, Security Chiefs *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Yeltsin Appoints Sidorov Deputy Foreign Minister *[INTERFAX]* 27
Kozyrev Interviewed on Meeting With Yeltsin *[Moscow RTV]* 27
Spokesman Denies Edict on Kozyrev's Dismissal *[INTERFAX]* 28
Premier Orders Antiterrorism 'State of Emergency' *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 10 Nov]* 28
'Threatening Report' of Bomb in Moscow Said False *[Moscow NTV]* 28
Police Deny Presidential Staff Evacuated *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Official Hails Yeltsin's Central Bank Appointment *[INTERFAX]* 29
Vice Chairman 'Upset' by Removal *[INTERFAX]* 29
Law Enforcement Detains Suspect in Kivilidi Murder *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
New Prosecutor General Holds News Conference *[Moscow RTV]* 30
Stepashin To Head Staff Administration Department *[INTERFAX]* 30

Military Issues

Yeltsin, Grachev Discuss Ministry Stand on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Grachev: Yeltsin in Control of Armed Forces *[INTERFAX]* 31
Yeltsin Orders Relief Fund for Far East Military *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Reportedly Orders Riot Units in Armed Forces *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 9-16 Nov]* ... 32
Grachev: Army To Be 100,000 Men Under Strength *[ITAR-TASS]* 32

Federal Assembly

100 Deputies Challenge Legality of Electoral Law *[AFP]* 32
Duma Awaits Court's Ruling on 5-Percent Hurdle *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 11 Nov]* 33
Duma Adopts Amendments to Privatization Law *[ITAR-TASS]* 33

Rybkin Cited on Duma's Foreign Policy Role *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 Nov]* 33
Duma Committee Recommends Revision of 1995 Budget *[SEGODNYA 10 Nov]* 35
Duma's Piskunov Cited on Defense Budget *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Nov]* 35
Shumeyko Explains Rejection of Production-Sharing Law *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Legislative, Regulatory Documents 29 Oct - 4 Nov *[FBIS Media Note]* 37

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Negotiations, Military, Politics 38
Dudayev Chairs Defense Council Meeting *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 11 Nov]* 38
International Cease-Fire Supervision Demanded *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Chechens Make International Help Appeal *[INTERFAX]* 39
Chechens Refuse To Sign Shakhray's Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 39
Zavgayev Meets 'Close' Dudayev Aide *[INTERFAX]* 39
Zavgayev Meeting Denied *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Shkirko Assesses Chechen Situation *[INTERFAX]* 40
Further Shkirko Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Shkirko on Continuing Efforts To Free Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
'All for All' POW Agreement Reached *[Moscow NTV]* 42
'Secret' Meeting Held on Combat Tactics *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Nov]* 42
Khasbulatov Says Hostilities May Restart *[INTERFAX]* 43
17 Dec Elections Not Seen as Feasible *[INTERFAX]* 43
Council's Pain on Negotiating Process *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Nov]* 44
Chernomyrdin Meets With Paratroopers, Farmers in Tula *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Ossetian Leader Neither Confirms nor Denies Sabotage *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Yeltsin's Aide Visits Conflict Zone *[INTERFAX]* 45
New Government Formed in Republic of Kalmykia *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Norilsk Autonomy Issue Resolved *[IZVESTIYA 10 Nov]* 45
Kaliningrad's Matochkin Views Talks With Panskov *[YANTARNYY KRAY 26 Oct]* 46
Rostov Deputies Urge Renationalization of Energy Sector *[SEGODNYA 10 Nov]* 47
Bashkortostan To Hold Referendum on Landownership *[SEGODNYA 10 Nov]* 47

Economic Issues

Aftermath of Paramonova's Removal Examined *[TRUD-7 10-16 Nov]* 48
Khandruyev Cited on Policy Issues *[INTERFAX]* 49
Khandruyev Seen As Permanent Chairman *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Nov]* 49
Dubenetskiy 'Extremely Likely' To Succeed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 10 Nov]* .. 50
Reform Center Head Sees Ruble Peg Repeal as 'Untimely' *[SEGODNYA 9 Nov]* 50
Chubays: Export Duty on Steel, Fertilizer Lifted *[INTERFAX]* 51
Chubays: Decree Does Not Decrease Shareholders' Rights *[INTERFAX]* 51
Economics Minister Believes Budget Will Be Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
KRO Leader Criticizes Chernomyrdin's Budget Policies *[INTERFAX]* 52
R3 Trillion Said Necessary To Prevent Bread Price Rise *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Prices Blamed on Government 'Trickery' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 9 Nov]* 52

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma: Kiev Ready To Cooperate With NATO on Bosnia *[Kiev International]* 55
Udovenko on Situation of Peacekeepers to Bosnia *[INTERFAX]* 55
Marchuk Attends Ceremony on Council of Europe Admission *[INTERFAX]* 55
Nuclear Disarmament Progress Briefing Held *[TRUD-7 10-16 Nov]* 56
Kuchma Meets With Russian Border Guard Director *[INTERFAX]* 56

Kuchma: Black Sea Fleet Deal Delayed for Political Reasons *[Kiev International]* 56
Naval Official on Black Sea Fleet Base Proposals *[INTERFAX]* 56
Armed Forces Chief Ends U.S. Visit *[UNIAR]* 57

National Affairs

Kuchma Promotes Reform in Address to 'Creative Elite' *[INTELNEWS]* 57
Kuchma Visits Kharkov, Speaks on Constitution *[Kiev TV]* 58
Oil Deliveries to Europe Suspended After Pipeline Accident *[Kiev TV]* 58
Nuclear Reform Linked to Future Energy Market Entrance *[Kiev International]* 58
New Crimean Constitution Receives Kiev Approval *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
New Crimean Constitution Seen as Source of Conflicts *[ZERKALO NEDELI 4-10 Nov]* 59
Rukh Opposes New Crimean Constitution *[INTELNEWS]* 60
Crimean Tatar Deputies End 10-Day Hunger Strike *[ITAR-TASS]* 60

Economic Issues

Kuchma Calls For 'Correcting' Reforms *[INTERFAX]* 60
Defense Minister Meets With Heads of Defense Enterprises *[INTERFAX]* 61
Agriculture Ministry Reallocates Funds for U.S. Credit *[UNIAN]* 61
Property Fund Chairman Presents Privatization Program *[INFOBANK]* 61
Commission Head on New Privatization Concept *[VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 3 Nov]* . 62

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

NATO Delegation Arrives To Discuss Partnership for Peace *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Lithuanian Prime Minister Signs Protocol *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Border Documents With Poland Signed *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Lukashenka Declares No Elections Under Court's Law *[Moscow RTV]* 64
Foreign Minister Denies Rumors of Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 65

Moldova

Snegur Suspends Moldovan-Russian Joint Venture Resolution *[INFOTAG]* 65
Minister Views Ownership of Assets in Russia *[BASAPRESS]* 65
Dniester Russian Community Wants Soviet Union Restoration *[INFOTAG]* 66
Opposition Calls For Government's Resignation *[BASAPRESS]* 66

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Ensure Democracy of Elections *[INTERFAX]* 67
Government Agencies To Move to Akmola in 1997 *[INTERFAX]* 67

Tajikistan

UN's Silovic Concerned Over Inter-Tajik Talks *[INTERFAX]* 68
Russian General: Possible Extensive Border Military Action *[INTERFAX]* 68
Tajik Opposition Increasing Steps to Destabilize Situation *[Moscow ORT]* 68

Turkmenistan

ECO Group Discusses Linking Central Asian Energy Networks *[Ashgabat Radio]* 69
Ashbabat, Tehran Ready To Aid Inter-Tajik Talks *[INTERFAX]* 69

Shikhmuradov, Iran's Velayati Sign Transport Agreement *[Tehran Radio]* 69

Uzbekistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives for One Day Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Karimov, Bhutto Discuss Afghan Security *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Bhutto, Karimov Meeting Detailed *[Islamabad THE NATION 12 Nov]* 70
Trade With China Set To Increase *[BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA 10-16 Nov]* 72
EBRD To Grant $50 Million Credit To Develop Foreign Trade *[ITAR-TASS]* 72

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Shafranik in Baku for Signing of Oil Development Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 74
Shafranik on Russia's 'Victory' on Karabakh Oil Field *[INTERFAX]* 74
President Aliyev Comments on Oil Field Deal *[TURAN]* 74
President Addresses Constitutional Commission *[Baku TV]* 75
Reportage, Commentary on Parliamentary Elections 76
Commission Declares Election 'Valid' *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
Preliminary Election Data Released *[TURAN]* 76
Aliyev on Holding of Elections *[INTERFAX]* 77
Observers Denounce 'Fraudulent Elements' *[AFP]* 77
Results Show Pro-Aliyev Party Leading *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Commission Head: 'More Than 80%' Voted *[TURAN]* 78

Georgia

Abkhazia Accused of Deception After Russia Lifts Blockade *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 78
Abkhazia Against Changes to Russian Peacekeeping Mandate *[ITAR-TASS]* 78
No Official Reaction to Russian Protest of Detention *[Moscow NTV]* 78
Talks With International Consortium Finalize Oil Project *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 10 Nov]* ... 79
Turkey To Use Oil Terminals in Lieu of Loan Repayment *[SAKINFORM]* 79
Yeltsin Congratulates Shevardnadze Via Ambassador *[Tbilisi Radio]* 79
Political Figures Comment on Results of Elections *[Tbilisi Radio]* 80
Call on 'Discontented' Parties To Unite *[Moscow NTV]* 80

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Vahi Meets Icelandic Premier in Reykjavik *[Tallinn Radio]* 82
Vahi Says Visit 'Very Successful' *[Tallinn TV]* 82
Russian Duma Delegation Discusses Treaty Ratification *[BNS]* 83
Foreign Minister Addresses Council of Europe Committee *[BNS]* 83

Latvia

Birkavs on Lithuanian Actions in Oil Dispute *[Riga Radio]* 83
Birkavs Favors Arbitration in Dispute *[Vilnius Radio]* 84
Delegation Returns From Lithuania After Talks *[Riga Radio]* 84
Military Cooperation Plan Signed With Denmark *[BNS]* 85

Lithuania

Vilnius Hosts Seminar on European Security, NATO *[BNS]* 85

Vilnius Begins Negotiations on WTO Membership *[BNS]* 85
Finnish Parliamentary Speaker Addresses Seimas *[Vilnius Radio]* 86
Foreign Ministry: Latvian Oil Agreement To Be Revoked *[ELTA]* 86
Prime Minister on Relations With Latvia *[Vilnius Radio]* 87
Prime Minister: Baltic Oil Prospecting To Begin *[BNS]* 87
President Brazauskas Meets Latvians on Oil Dispute *[Vilnius Radio]* 88

Key Developments

Daily: Yeltsin 'Bought' Off TsIK Before Illness

MK1111122795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "How the President Bought the Central Electoral Commission"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] Chairman Nikolay Ryabov wangled, days before the president's illness, entitlements for his agency that even the Russian Federation Government staff does not have.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that Boris Yeltsin made changes in the roster of federal agencies of the executive branch. The presidential edict raises the status of the TsIK staff to that of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court is on the top rung of the roster of federal executive branch agencies. Bureaucrats of the government staff and of both houses of the Russian parliament do not have such a special position.

In line with their new position, TsIK bureaucrats are receiving several bonuses at once. These are bonuses for the complexity of their job, [for working under] a special regime, for secrecy, and for working overtime. Furthermore, the heads of virtually all TsIK subdivisions are being provided with chauffeured cars, while their subordinates are being included on privileged lists for housing.

Incidentally, the president is on record as having refused to sign an edict raising the Central Electoral Commission's status on three occasions this year.

Yabloko Seeks To Disband Electoral Commission

LD1011140295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has drawn up a bill on the possibility of the Central Electoral Commission's disbandment, authored by members of the parliamentary faction of Yabloko. Journalist Konstantin Katonyak has the details:

[Katonyak] What this is about is an amendment to the law on the fundamental guarantees of the public's electoral rights. There is a proposal to supplement it with a special article. In the event of the Russian Federation's Central Electoral Commission repeatedly taking decisions which infringe upon the electoral rights of the public or decisions which can lead to substantially distorting the results of the expression of wish by the public, the Supreme Court of Russia, under the article, has the right, on the basis of a respective lawsuit, to rule to disband the Russian Federation's Central Electoral Commission. Such a disbandment lawsuit can be filed by the president of Russia, the Federation Council, the State Duma, or a group of State Duma deputies numbering at least one fifth of the total number of deputies.

The author of the draft law is Vladimir [as heard] Nikitin who is an assistant to State Duma Deputy Viktor Sheynis, admittedly the godfather of all election laws passed by Russia's parliament.

Electoral Commission Registers 42 Organizations

LD1011163695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Central Electoral Commission on Friday finished registering nationwide lists of candidates nominated by various parties and other groupings for the December 17 election to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

The ganizations that have had their lists registered are:

1. Communist Party of the Russian Federation (list topped by Gennadiy Zyuganov;

2. Congress of Russian Communities (KRO) (Yuriy Skokov);

3. Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy);

4. Women of Russia (Valentina Fedulova);

5. Agrarian Party of Russia (Mikhail Lapshin);

6. "Ivan Rybkin's bloc," a coalition led by current Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin;

7. Our Home is Russia (Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin);

8. Russian Trade Unions and Industrialists-Labor Union (Vladimir Shcherbakov);

9. Beer Lovers' Party (Konstantin Kalachev);

10. Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov (Alexander Tikhonov);

11. Forward Russia (former finance minister Boris Fyodorov);

12. Common Cause (Irina Khakamada);

13. Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko (Vladimir Lysenko, leader of the Republican Party of the Russian Federation; bloc list topped by Ella Pamfilova);

14. Popular Union (Vladimir Lukyanov);

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15. For the Homeland (Vladimir Polevanov);

16. Generation X (Dmitry Solonnikov);

17. Democratic Choice of Russia-United Democrats (former acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar);

18. Social Democrats (former Moscow mayor Gavril Popov);

19. National Republican Party of Russia (Nikolay Lysenko);

20. Workers' Self-government Party (Svyatoslav Fyodorov);

21. Kedr (Cedar) Ecological Party (Anatoliy Panfilov);

22. My Fatherland (Boris Gromov);

23. Power to the People (former Soviet prime minister Nikolay Ryzhkov);

24. Economic Freedom Party (Konstantin Borovoy);

25. Christian Democratic Union-Christians of Russia (Vitaliy Savitskiy);

26. Party of Russian Unity and Concord (Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray);

27. Duma '96 (Vladimir Burenin);

28. NUR Muslim movement party (Khalit Yakhin);

29. "Stanislav Govorukhin's bloc";

30. Stable Russia (Oleg Petrov);

31. Bloc 89 (deriving its name from Russia's 89 constituent territories; regional lists only);

32. Russian Pan-national Movement (Aleksandr Bazhenov);

33. Bloc including the leader of the Party of Defense of Pensioners and Veterans (Dzhuna Davitashvili);

34. Communists and Working Russia for the Soviet Union (Viktor Tyulkin);

35. Nationalities Union (Abdulakh Mikitayev);

36. Transformation of the Fatherland (Eduard Rossel);

37. Derzhava (Great Power) (former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy);

38. Yabloko (Grigoriy Yavlinskiy);

39. Independents' Bloc (regional lists only);

40. Federal Democratic Movement (Oleg Novikov);

41. Bloc among others comprising the Party of Defense of Invalids (Valentin Dikul);

42. Russian Lawyers' Association (Aleksey Malayev).

The Central Electoral Commission refused to register lists submitted by eight organizations — the Union of Housing and Municipal Workers of Russia (Leonid Chernyshov), the All Russia Social and Political Movement of Transport Workers (Leonid Bagrov), Patriots' Union (Vladislav Achalov), National Salvation Front (Valery Smirnov), Our Future, We Serve Russia, the Russian Muslim Union (Makhmud Esambayev), the Union of the Land, Cossacks and Orthodox Christian Patriotic Organizations of Russia (Vyacheslav Klykov).

Altogether 69 organizations have declared the intention to propose candidates for the election.

On Friday lots are also to be drawn to determine the number of each organization on a ballot paper and the succession in which their candidates will appear on radio and television.

TsIK Casts Lots To Determine Air Time Order

LD1011200295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission (CEC) [TsIK] today cast lots to determine the order in which electoral blocs and parties will get air time on national TV and radio companies.

Under the law on elections to the State Duma, every electoral bloc or party will get free air time from state-owned TV and radio companies in the period from November 15 till December 15 on working days.

Public Russian Television (ORT) will provide electoral blocs and parties with free air time in the morning (from 8:25 a.m. till 8:55 a.m.) and in the evening (from 7:10 p.m. till 7:40 p.m.).

The Ivan Rybkin bloc, the Economic Freedom Party led by Konstantin Borovoy, the Yabloko party led by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and the Derzhava movement led by Aleksandr Rutskoy will be the first to launch their election campaign on ORT at 8:25 a.m. on November 15.

Election campaigning on ORT will end at 7:40 pm on December 15, with the final slot being taken by the Communists & Working Russia-For the Soviet Union bloc led by Viktor Tyulkin, the Association of Russia's Lawyers led by Aleksey Maleyev, the 89 regional bloc (whose federal list has no leaders and is broken down into regional groups), and the Independents' Bloc (whose federal list has no leaders and is also broken down into regional groups).

The Russia TV company (VGRTK) will give blocs and parties free air time in the morning (from 8:30 a.m. till

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10:00 a.m.) and in the evening (from 6:40 p.m. till 7:10 p.m.).

Election campaigning on the Russia channel will start on November 15 at 8:30 a.m. with the Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats led by Yegor Gaydar, the Economic Freedom Party and the Beer Lovers' Party led by Konstantin Kalachev.

Election campaigning on the Russia channel will end on December 15 with the 6:40 pm slot, taken by the Inter-Ethnic Union party led by Abdulakh Mikitayev, the Power to the People led by Nikolay Ryzhkov, the Our Home is Russia bloc led by Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Communists & Working Russia-For the Soviet Union.

The Central Electoral Commission also cast lots to divide air time on the Petersburg-Fifth TV channel and on state-owned radio companies.

Zhirinovskiy Claims KRO Tried To Bribe Him

MK1111145295 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Zhirinovskiy Catches Lebed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Zhirinovskiy announced in a State Duma plenary session that he had been offered a bribe. More exactly, the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] suggested to the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] that it withdraw its candidate in one electoral districts for 100,000 bucks.

VVZh [Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy] was most of all excited by the fact that there are indeed good sources of hard currency. Why didn't he know anything about them? Let the prosecutor's office look into the matter and report where such big bucks can be found.

The LDPR leader's envy is easy to understand. Malicious tongues claim, for example, that, while collecting donations for fellow countrymen in distress, the KRO spent almost 10 times more than it collected on transportation and a presentation ceremony at the Kosmos Hotel. That did not ruin it at all.

Gaydar Explains Democratic Choice's Platform

LD1111150295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The congress of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" electoral association adopted an election platform today, the association's leader Yegor Gaydar said in an interview to our radio station.

[Begin Gaydar recording] We are offering the electorate a large wide-ranging set of draft laws which remove from bureaucrats the right to grant and act at their discretion, which popularizes our taxation system and makes it fairer, which creates real guarantees for private ownership and which makes it possible to make our social support system better targeted, and which changes the priorities for shaping the budget in favor of the social sphere. [end recording]

Yegor Gaydar claims that recently all public opinion polls have shown an increase in the popularity of Russia's Democratic Choice.

Ivan Rybkin's Bloc Approves Election Program

LD0911193995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — A convention of the Ivan Rybkin's Bloc approved its election program Thursday.

In part, the document contains promises to stop the "senseless division and redistribution of property and forced privatization." The platform also calls for abolishing all taxes, "except for a 30-percent profit tax and excise duties on harmful goods."

In addition, the bloc pledged to ensure stabler employment, increase pensions, grants and benefits, compensate for the people's inflation-devalued deposits and grant more powers to authorities of all levels.

One of the bloc's architects, Vyacheslav Nikonov, said in his speech at the conference that the bloc represented a "civilized opposition" to the current government and an "association of a wide spectrum of ideas and strata of Russia's society, except for those whose place is in jail."

In the course of the conference, State Duma deputy Aleksandr Yegorov proposed the bloc make Golden Fish from Aleksandr Pushkin's fairy tale its official symbol. However, most of his colleagues disagreed recalling the broken bowl the fairy tale ends with and a series of anecdotes about this protagonist.

The conference also rejected the motion to make the cork-tumbler, a popular Russian toy, the bloc's symbol. The issue was left open.

'89' Seen Counting on Regions, Urging Faster Reform

MK1111063795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev: "'89' Bloc Plans To Initiate Second Stage of Reform. 'The Case History'

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of Russian Regions To Be Collected 'Into One Single Volume'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reform "from the bottom up" instead of "reform from the top that has exhausted its potential" is what candidates of the '89' bloc plan to seek if the Russians give them their preference on 17 December.

As for voters' sympathies, judging from their statements at yesterday's meeting with Moscow journalists, bloc leaders have no doubts in that regard, although the bloc was one of the last to be formed during the electoral marathon and had to do "without actors and generals," and did not include on its list "a head group of Moscow politicians" either. Seeing itself as a bloc of the regions ('89' has rallied around it some regional chapters of the "Russia's Choice" movement, Democratic Russia, and the Association of Independent Professionals), 59 candidates on its list and another 6 running in single-seat districts count on their popularity on the ground, a popularity they plan to boost during the advertising-promotional campaign.

According to Valeriy Davydov, leader of '89,' participants in the bloc want "to collect the case histories of all regions into one single volume," with which they will come to the State Duma to start treatment "in the sequence the urgency of a given disease requires." The acutest diseases include, in particular, the problem of nonpayments, which in Mr. Davydov's view "originates at the bottom" (at the level of enterprise directors), but progresses against the backdrop of another "acute disease:" the system of tax collection imposed "from the top" and the subsequent allocation of budget funds.

At the same time, Mr. Davydov emphasized that, unlike other parties and blocs, '89' offers a "systemic" view of the problems of the regions, "systemic" solutions to which, as the bloc leaders are convinced, should make up the second stage of reform, which could help the changes in this country to gain momentum. Otherwise, by Mr. Davydov's calculations, it will take Russia 200 years to finish this transformation. Given that, the '89' leader was skeptical about the intentions of other electoral associations that proclaim in their electoral programs the independence of the regions but in fact, as Mr. Davydov sees it, proceed from the "totalitarian viewpoint" of old, trying to "pull everything to the center, including politics, finances, and the economy."

Sterligov Accuses TsIK of Discrimination

LD0911144695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Report by R. Babayan; passages in quotation marks are recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Babayan] The Russian Assembly Party held a news conference in Moscow today, presided over by the party's chairman Aleksandr Sterligov. The news conference was prompted by the refusal of the Union of Patriots election bloc, which includes the Russian Assembly Party, to register for the elections to the Russian State Duma. Sterligov said members of the bloc were forced to take such a step because they are convinced that unequal conditions were created for those taking part in the election campaign. The Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] claims that all blocs are equal but in reality it provided more favorable conditions for parties representing those in power, he stressed. They use their official position in their election campaign and create numerous obstacles for their rivals. Therefore the Union of Patriots has plans for its representatives to become Duma deputies as a result of winning in single-seat constituencies.

[Sterligov] "For example, some state structures in Voronezh Region have already ordered: Vote for Rybkin or everyone will be fired."

[Babayan] In spite of this Aleksandr Sterligov is convinced that it is necessary to continue taking part in the election campaign.

[Sterligov] "We should be taking part in the elections because if we do not do this, we will voluntarily give the legislative power to those who created problems in the country in the first place. We should be in opposition to them and win."

[Babayan] Sterligov said that people in rural areas of Voronezh Region are living in real poverty. A tractor mechanic gets 40,000 rubles per month but even salaries like this are paid once every three or four months.

[Sterligov] "There are shabby cottages everywhere and in some regions people are still living in clay huts. I do not need anyone — neither Zhuganov, nor Anpilov, nor anyone else — nor democrats for that matter — to help me understand that no one cares for our people."

[Babayan] This cannot go on much longer, Sterligov said. People must take power into their hands at all cost. Otherwise, Russia will be involved in some kind of international or interethnic war.

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Public TV To Air Debates, Roundtable Discussions

LD0911192195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1826 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Public Television (RPT) bids to cover the pre-election campaign by staging debates and roundtable discussions, RPT director Sergey Blagovolin said in a statement today.

Replacing talking heads by the debates would make the electoral race a lively show unaffected by bias, rather than the "contest of demagogeries and populism" abundant in the last, 1993 elections to the State Duma, Blagovolin said.

He quoted regulations of the central electoral commission allowing the televised debates and roundtable meetings as a form of coverage.

If the electoral commission finds this concept objectionable under the election law, the RPT leadership will accept this, Blagovolin continued.

He denied rumours that RPT is guided by a political order in dealing with parties and blocs.

He said all blocs would be provided access to television air.

One hour of free air for blocs will be divided between morning and evening programmes.

The television company VID, which had contributed to the coverage concept, is not seeking a monopolist position, Blagovolin said.

He announced RPT's decision to limit paid air to a daily six minutes of political advertisement.

Blagovolin admitted that this decision did not met acceptance by many parties and coalitions, although some find it reasonable.

Regional Activities

Chechen Political Forces Oppose Duma Elections

LD1111151695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Chechnya's political forces opposed the idea of holding elections to the State Duma in this North Caucasus region of Russia in December.

Representatives of various political parties and movements who gathered for a round-table conference in Groznyy on Saturday stressed that elections to the federal legislature cannot be held in Chechnya until its status is determined.

Conference participants urged those who intend to run for the State Duma from Chechnya to change their mind.

Bryansk Seen Likely To Vote For CPRF, KRO

LD0911214695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1949 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — Three quarters of the residents of the Bryansk region demonstrate active interest in the political life of the country and of the region, according to experts of the Bryansk regional administration's Information Analytical Committee.

In a representative survey, 47 percent of those polled said they feel "embittered," while 39 percent characterized their mood as "apathetic" or "critical."

Most residents of the region are not satisfied with local authorities' activities: 75 percent of those polled believe that the situation is developing "in the wrong direction." As many as 30 percent of the polled residents of the Bryansk region believe that the region is ruled by organized crime barons.

Over 50 percent of those polled describe their economic situation as bad. Bryansk residents are mostly concerned about rising prices, high crime rate, low moral, sharp social contrast between the rich and the poor and issues relating to the efficiency of the country's leadership.

The survey showed that during the upcoming parliamentary elections the Russian Communist Party [CPRF] and the Congress of Russian Communities (KRO) will be the principal forces competing for votes in the Bryansk region. Experts believe that the region may again prove to be a Communist stronghold.

Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed tops the list of the most popular political figures in the region. Gennadiy Zyuganov (Russian Communist Party), Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Yabloko), Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Aleksandr Rutskoy (Derzhava) are also in the top ten.

Daily Views Election Campaign in Omsk Oblast

MK1111122895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 November 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Spiridonov from Omsk: "Candidates to the State Duma From Omsk Oblast Set To Fight. Omsk Residents Are To Elect Governor and Mayor at the Same Time.]

[FBIS Translated Text] After 7 November, 32 candidates for State Duma deputy, registered in the three

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Omsk Oblast electoral districts, joined the election race in earnest. They include nine independent candidates; one candidate each from "Russia Is Our Home," the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and the Russian All-People's Movement in each of the three districts; and two candidates per district were nominated by "Russia's Democratic Choice," the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and the "Power to the People!" bloc. [numbers as published]

There are few names familiar to the residents of Omsk on the lists of candidates. In District 128, comprising most of the oblast's rayons, there are only two: the former first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's [CPSU's] Omsk Oblast Committee, Sergey Manyakin, 72, a pensioner long residing in Moscow and brought back to political life by Sergey Baburin's "Power to the People" bloc; and State Duma deputy Oleg Zharov, known for the fact that after a short stay in the Duma he made an attempt at "self-recall," while the rest of the time he did not indulge the parliament by attending its sessions. Moreover, with the elections not far off, Mr. Zharov ran over a woman in the center of Omsk with his private Lincoln and is now waiting to see what the prosecutor's office has to say about it.

In District 129, the best-known are Oleg Smolin, a Federation Council deputy; Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Information Policy and Communications Committee; and Vladimir Ispravnikov, former deputy to [Russian Supreme Soviet Speaker] Ruslan Khasbulatov and chairman of the Supreme Economic Council of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Mr. Poltoranin, who has in no way been connected with Omsk before, save perhaps for his being on good terms with Governor Leonid Polezhayev, is now frequenting the oblast and is wooing the leaders of the local media. Observers estimate that the experienced politician does not stand a chance against the young and popular deputy chairman of the city council, Sergey Arbuzov.

In District 130, the struggle will be particularly bitter between two current State Duma deputies, Sergey Baburin ("Power to the People!") and Aleksandr Minzhurenko (Gaydar's "Russia's Democratic Choice"). Earlier, Russia's former Prosecutor General Aleksey Kazannik was the undisputed leader here. However, his ignorance of the law made him a loser. At first, Mr. Kazannik wished to run as an independent candidate and still remain on the federal slate of Svyatoslav Fedorov's "Party of Workers' Self-Government." When they explained to him that it was impossible, he decided to break with the party and submitted [to the Central Electoral Commission] the signature lists [he collected to be able to run] in a single-seat constituency, but prior to registration he took them back, feeling that he was failing Fedorov's party which, had he not done so, would have undoubtedly been denied registration by the Central Electoral Commission.

Simultaneously with the elections to the State Duma, gubernatorial and mayoral elections will take place in Omsk. At the moment, six people have their eyes on the governor's post, including the incumbent Governor Leonid Polezhayev; one of the former first secretaries of the CPSU oblast committee, Yevgeniy Pokhitaylo, 70, who once left this seat "due to a poor state of health;" and Vladimir Ispravnikov, already mentioned above.

As for the candidates for mayor, there are three, including the incumbent, although the nomination of candidates is still continuing.

Election Guidelines

Officials, Party Leaders View Amendment of Election Law

Krasnov: 'Too Late' To Revise Law

LD1111152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 11 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin's Legal Adviser Mikhail Krasnov believes it is too late now to revise the law on elections to the State Duma, but it is still possible to perfect the legislation and make it more comprehensible.

In an interview with INTERFAX on Saturday, he was commenting on calls from some politicians and parties to amend the election law.

Before signing the election bill into law, Krasnov recalled, President Yeltsin described it as being "far from perfection" and pointed to a number of flaws in the legislation both in its wording and in election formula, by which half the candidates run for parliament on party tickets.

"The proportional system no longer meets Russian reality since it will not ensure real representation of all political forces and voters in the future State Duma," Krasnov stressed.

The election law "touched upon the political interests of the active part of society", for this reason "was meet with a due response in society," Krasnov said.

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Skokov Attacks Election Law Critics

LD1111184795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1843 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — "Elections to the Duma must be held as scheduled. Any changes in the date of elections are out of the question," Yuriy Skokov, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, said upon his arrival in Kazan, Tatarstan, on Saturday.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Skokov lashed out at those who begin to criticise the election law, under which they will be elected, with slightly more than a month left before parliamentary elections scheduled for December 17.

"The discussion on the election law lasted 18 months. About 150 amendments were made and we must abide by it now. If we do not hold elections now we will find ourselves sliding towards anarchy," he said.

Skokov had a meeting with Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev today. During the 1-1/2 hour one-to-one meeting, Shaymiyev stressed that he "favours a union of the peoples of Russia, and consistent federalisation and democratisation of the country."

Summing up the results of his meeting with the Tatar president, Skokov told ITAR-TASS that "like old friends, we exchanged on the current situation and found out that our positions remain unchanged."

Democratic Choice Against Changing Law

LD1111145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats electoral bloc is against changing the law on elections of deputies to the State Duma. This was stated today by Boris Zolotukhin, deputy chairman of the Russia's Democratic Choice faction in the Duma. Today, he presented a minimum legislative program of Russia's Democratic Choice at the bloc's congress of candidates.

Boris Zolotukhin stressed that Russia's Democratic Choice movement does not consider lowering the existing 5-percent barrier for parties and associations to be the correct decision. "We are against breeding small fry in the parliamentary aquarium," Boris Zolotukhin said.

Isakov Views 5-Percent Barrier

LD1011203995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — A High Court inquiry on whether the provision on the 5 percent vote barrier — the minimum required for getting elected to the State Duma — complies with the constitution, is making the psychological and political situation on the eve of the parliamentary elections inadmissible and is anti-constitutional, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Legislation and Judicial Reform Vladimir Isakov told INTERFAX. Isakov is a member of the Agrarian Party faction in the State Duma.

"Not a day passes without a publication alleging that the seats in the parliament are being sought by criminals, that this law is unacceptable and that the parliament will be illegitimate," he said. "Against such a background no one will go to the polls," he added.

He expressed regret that parliament chairman Ivan Rybkin supported those who believe that the 5 percent barrier is rendering the new parliament unrepresentative. In his opinion Rybkin is undermining what he and the State Duma have achieved, for the only purpose of ensuring that at least a minimal number of candidates representing his bloc secure the deputies' mandates.

Even if the 5 percent barrier is annulled, said Isakov, the date of the election must not be changed. The only thing that might be affected is the method of distributing the deputies' mandates — between all, not between the winners who have overcome this barrier.

Zhirinovskiy Opposes Amendments

LD1011181695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader, objects to proposals of some Russian politicians to make amendments to the law on the election of deputies to the State Duma before December 17. Speaking at a news conference in the lower house of the Russian parliament, Zhirinovskiy said that objections to the five per cent barrier are made above all by the political forces that cannot overcome it.

"If you cannot make it to the Duma on the Federal list, then try to win in one-seat constituencies," Zhirinovskiy said. He believes certain political forces are now doing their utmost so as to declare the results of the elections

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null and void early next year. Such efforts are prompted by forecasts of the parliamentary election results in accordance with which the LDPR will win 40 per cent of the votes in the election to the Duma, Communists 20 per cent, Our House is Russia 20 per cent, the Russian Agrarian Party ten per cent and the United Democrats only ten per cent, Zhirinovskiy said.

Ryabov Favors Keeping 5-Percent Hurdle

LD0911214195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2120 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 9 (ITAR-TASS) — A verdict of the Russian Constitutional Court that one of clauses of the Russian election law conforms with the constitution would not lead to postponement or cancellation of the legislative election, central electoral commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov told reporters.

The clause at issue requires runners in the election to clear a five per cent hurdle, or get at least five per cent of the vote, to enter the State Duma.

Some parties and coalitions have stepped up a campaign to have this requirement trimmed down in the parliament in the days remaining before the election.

Ryabov said he advocated the law as it is, adding that the quest for the lower vote hurdle has political strings behind it.

Shumeyko Supports Postponement

LD1011192395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been fresh disputes in parliament over fundamental laws, and what is more, to judge by all events, the disputes will get increasingly furious as the elections get closer. Representatives of the opposing groupings are once again appealing to the president.

Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko told journalists today he was scheduled to have a meeting with President Yeltsin tomorrow, during which he would discuss with the head of state the laws on elections of State Duma deputies and on the formation of the Federation Council. Furthermore, Shumeyko pointed out, he had himself drawn up a new draft law on the procedure for forming the parliamentary chamber entrusted to him. In addition, Vladimir Filippovich [Shumeyko] hopes that the new law will not suffer the same fate as its predecessor, which, he said, had been put on the president's desk with substantial amendments to the initial variant approved by the State Duma.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] The president simply will not sign the law because he does not have the right to sign it and make it public. The law is at variance with the text that was adopted. That is, the president cannot even examine it, cannot put a veto on it, or do anything else with it. He simply does not have the right to treat this piece of paper as a law. [end recording]

As regards the presidential elections, Shumeyko considers the law on electing deputies that regulates the voting on 17 December to be flawed, because it contains a direct violation of citizens' constitutional rights — namely the conducting of elections on party lists. Today, however, Shumeyko explained why, in the final analysis, the Federation Council had approved the draft law in question.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] That is the way our mentality works, we got used to it under socialism — on 1 May, 7 November, the Paris Commune and so on and so forth, things have to be done on a certain date. Everybody wanted to hold the elections on 17 [December]. [end recording]

The Federation Council speaker said that the shortcomings of the law could lead to a repetition of the situation in Kazakhstan, so the Supreme Court might rule the 17 December elections to the State Duma illegitimate. Shumeyko does not venture to guess what the consequence of that might be.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] I said in May last year that the mandate should be extended by two years, as you all recall. Shumeyko then was the only villain, and everybody else goodies — politicians, I mean. Shumeyko was immoral and this, that, and the other, he wants to keep his seat warm — what did people not say! Today I am getting masses of letters saying: Vladimir Filippovich, why don't you ask again for a deferral for two years, go off and ask again. [end recording]

Forecasts & Commentary

Rybkin's Late Entry Makes Good Preelection Showing

MM1311093395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Commentary by Sergey Chugayev: "First Congress of the BIR [Bloc of Ivan Rybkin] Lovers' Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It would seem that a new runner, an outsider, has joined the leaders group in the Russian election race. At least that is the impression of the results

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of the "Ivan Rybkin Bloc" association's conference in Moscow 9 November.

I. Rybkin's start in the election marathon was extremely unsuccessful if not a complete flop. The reasons for that were the long and agonizing processes of forming a team and the late entry into the fray. However, it cannot be ruled out that these failures put the bloc in a more advantageous position just before entering the finishing straight. On the one hand, some of the favorites miscalculated their strength when they broke from the pack and others made mistakes. On the other hand, the false start enabled I. Rybkin to form a more solid and reliable bloc. Most important of all, the head of the Russian parliament managed to resolve the most complex political task: He succeeded in distancing himself from the president and the government at the same time without entering into confrontation with them.

Among the centrists, the Rybkin bloc is bound to be first, according to its leader. Its main rival — Russia Is Our Home [NDR] — failed to achieve its main aim: to enlist the support of the regional political elite and the regional financial-industrial circles whose representatives have decided to run for the Duma in the single-seat districts. The reason for I. Rybkin's optimism is that the bloc soon managed to collect a lot of signatures and form one of the largest federation-wide lists of candidates and quite a large list of bloc members running in the single-seat districts. The Rybkinites have launched a vigorous propaganda campaign.

During this campaign too the political association, which had been considered pretty colorless, has become surprisingly attractive. Primarily because of the glaring mistakes of its charismatic rivals. Promises by participants in the election campaign that if they win they will carry out wholesale nationalization or send some of their fellow countrymen off to the sawmills [Siberia] were bound to cause confusion in the public mind. Against this background the Rybkin bloc's simple and, at first glance, most important slogan — civil peace and social accord — could attract the voters' attention.

Duma Elections Seen 'Impossible To Guarantee'

MK1011153595 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Analysis by Georgiy Bovt and Natalya Kalashnikova: "Export Commodity Is Nearly Ready. Domestic Consumption Is More of a Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The longer Boris Yeltsin is ill, the more uncertainty there is — be that the fate of the law on elections, the election itself, or personnel, which, as is well known, "makes all the difference." At the same time, a sense of hidden tension inside the Russian political elite is growing as its various representatives are sending out completely different signals. Georgiy Bovt and Natalya Kalashnikova analyze the situation.

The signals range from the upbeat "Yeltsin looks fine; he is absolutely capable of working; he is active and takes interest in everything, down to the minutest detail" (First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets), to something like "the Motherland is in danger" (CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] head Gennadiy Zyuganov described the situation in nearly such terms), and from assertions about the impending dismissal of Foreign Ministry head Andrey Kozyrev to "the question of Andrey Kozyrev's resignation or his taking leave to carry out electoral campaigning was not discussed during his meeting with Yeltsin" (according to the summary of the results of the meeting of the minister and the president at the Central Clinical Hospital).

Everything now hinges on the upcoming elections. At the same time, in view of shortcomings in the law on elections that have been detected suddenly and on a large scale, it is impossible to guarantee with absolute assurance that the elections will still take place on schedule, and even less is it possible to predict their result. In the past few days, of the key politicians it was Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin who mustered the courage to take a glimpse at 18 December. He came up with two forecasts — an "export" version (on 8 November for FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine) and a version for domestic consumption (at his electoral bloc's conference on 9 November). The first scenario boils down to the assertion that there will be no "drastic changes" and that "all parties present in the current Duma will retain their representation." The second prediction is that "the Duma will swing to the left and will be even more opposed to the president," and also that "the country is in for a much more fragmented electorate than two years ago." Rybkin's specific forecast (according to the second scenario) looks approximately as follows. The left will win 120-125 seats. Of the outright liberals, only "Yabloko" will clear the 5-percent hurdle (in all, the liberal wing will gain up to 50 seats). From among the national patriots, the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], Aleksandr Rutskoy's "Derzhava," the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities], and Ryzhkov's "Power to the People" will enter the Duma, each winning about 30 or so seats. Among the centrists, Rybkin sees likely winners in "[Russia Is] Our Home," "Women of Russia," and his bloc (the last only on condition of "hard work"). According to this forecast, the overall strength of the opposition at the Duma will come dangerously close to two-thirds, which will

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enable it easily to amend the Constitution and to override presidential vetoes. At any rate, following Ivan Rybkin's logic, a simple majority to express no confidence in the government, to vote down the budget, and so forth is close to becoming a reality. As for forecasts regarding the leftward swing, it seems that this is a virtually unanimously held view now. Gennadiy Zyuganov himself was presented in yesterday's "export" CNN report (after his meeting with the television company leadership and American business people) almost as a potential leader of the country trying to calm Western investors (there will be no upheavals at all, everything will be done in a "social democratic," not a "communist" way).

It would be naive to believe that representatives of various political currents who have locked horns in the political struggle will keep calmly sitting back as they read and watch such forecasts and reports. It is not ruled out that the Duma may proceed with energetic actions as early as 10 November by including on the agenda the question of amending the law. Possible changes may also affect the Central Electoral Commission's prerogatives and the abolition of the 5-percent threshold. The latter move may give smaller parties, democratic ones for example, an opportunity to send more representatives to the Duma. This, however, will not change the picture substantially — the small potatoes may fail to garner even 2-3 percent. In this case, the Constitutional Court may still consider the question of the new Duma's representativeness, and then most contenders will fail to make it to the lower chamber all the same. [passage omitted]

What does Kozyrev have to do with it, you may ask? It would seem that whatever bearing he may have on the elections is related to his running in a majority district in Murmansk as an independent candidate. The history of his "dismissal that turned out to be a nondismissal" is self-sufficient and absurd to some extent: If a foreign minister is going to be fired, fired he must be, instead of turning this into a worldwide show, after which the "semi-fired" minister looks somewhat odd at any talks. It is another matter if this is just a bluff and a desire to hint at the possibility of changing not only the minister but also the policy, thus frightening foreign partners and calming domestic opponents. True, it turned out awkwardly, but this is another matter.

The story received a follow-up the other day: IZVESTIYA reported that Kozyrev allegedly had not signed one single document for a week and a half already, which is seen at the Foreign Ministry as the full state of readiness for making an edict on his dismissal public. Dmitriy Ryurikov, Yeltsin's foreign policy adviser, is allegedly being suggested as Andrey Kozyrev's successor. It turned out that Ryurikov was indeed seen at Smolenskaya Square [Foreign Ministry seat] on Wednesday [8 November] — he attended a working meeting "on coordinating the ministry's operation." No momentous conclusions were drawn at the meeting, though. Then yesterday [9 November], ITAR-TASS reported after the meeting of Yeltsin and Kozyrev at the Central Clinical Hospital that "the president supported the minister's efforts to coordinate foreign policy activity under the direct guidance of the Russian head of state," thus ending yet another stage of criticism of the Foreign Ministry head and rumors about his resignation. As promised, the president appointed a "capable deputy" to him — Vasiliy Sidorov, an experienced bureaucrat, who formerly was first deputy ambassador of Russia to the UN.

In the meantime, it has already been suggested that removing Kozyrev would be extremely illogical at this stage. In light of tensions over the elections and the law on them, which are ratcheting up by the day, such a dismissal would be doubly illogical — since the head of the Foreign Ministry in Russia is something more than simply a foreign minister: This is also a "liaison officer" who can appropriately prepare world public opinion for any unpopular action of the executive authorities. Possibly, in December 1995, too, the minister may have a new mission: to explain to his foreign counterparts why — for the sake of reform and stability in Russia — a postponement of parliamentary elections should not be blown out of proportion. Technically, they could be delayed owing to the imperfection of electoral legislation and, privately, owing to pessimistic forecasts — providing thus for an "export propaganda package."

There are also worthy personnel to carry out explanatory work inside Russia. Yesterday, for instance, the Russian president signed edicts on conferring the military rank of army general on Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Federal Security Service, and Internal Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov.

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Nov

LD1111075495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0559 GMT 11 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (Itar-Tass) — Newspapers publish materials on the havoc wreaked by a hurricane in the Russian Far East. "The damage inflicted by the cyclone on the Khabarovsk territory is estimated at over 130 billion roubles," the Rossiyskaya Gazeta notes.

"The damage suffered by Sakhalin Island and the Kurils from the natural calamity amounts to 200 billion roubles. A new cyclone is moving towards the Russian Far East, bringing again stormy winds to the region," the daily stresses.

"According to the latest information, the cyclone took the lives of four people in the Khabarovsk territory, and several dozens were hospitalised," writes the Pravda newspaper.

The Izvestiya newspaper points to passivity of the centre and local authorities in the face of the raging elements of nature. In the newspaper's opinion, authorities are dragging feet in taking measures to rebuild economic projects and housing as well as infrastructure, taking into account proneness of the region to such natural calamities.

"Despite the fact that the weather forecast service was weakened by economic difficulties, it was impossible to oversee the powerful cyclone slowly moving from the Korean Peninsula," echoes the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

"However, local population continued to live in serenity, since no warnings were sounded," the daily stresses.

Izvestiya front-pages an article on the election campaign to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house). The daily comments on a decision by the Central Election Commission to use a lots-rawing machine to determine places of political blocs on the list in balloting papers.

The commentary notes that "the coming elections increasingly resemble a lottery without winning numbers". The article points to a strange situation when the game is started, but its participants do not know well its rules.

In the newspaper's opinion, this is corroborated by appeals of several blocs to the Constitutional Court to pass ajudgement on3 conformity of the Elections Law to the Russian Constitution.

"Under the Elections Law, election blocs and associations start, on November 15, a new stage of the election campaign: making political speeches in the press, over radio and television," the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda writes.

In this connection, the daily runs an interview with chairman of the Central Election Commission Nikolay Ryabov who describes provisions of the law regulating the operation of the media.

Commenting on pronouncements by some politicians about a need for changing election legislation, Ryabov said that "it is necessary to hold the elections in the framework and on the basis of present-day laws".

"Nobody claims that legislation is perfect," the chairman notes. "But why to speak about all this during the election campiagn?" Ryabov continued. In the chairman's opinion, nobody will benefit by maintaining uncertainty about election laws.

"The Russian government intends to appropriate nearly 270,000 billion roubles at 1994 prices for amerlioration of the great Russian river Volga," Rossiyskaya Gazeta writes.

Referring to information from public health bodies, the daily notes that "30 percent of all diseases of population are caused by the deteriorating quality of water and air pollution. The average annual toxic load on the water ecological systems of the Volga and its tributories is five times higher as compared with other Russian regions."

The same daily carries replies by premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to questions by reporters from several Russian cities whom he met recently.

Turning to the operation of the government over the past three years, Chernomyrdin stressed: "Production has not dropped in the country over several months of 1995 for the first time in the four years. The price rise dropped by 85.7 percent as against 1994.

"Inflation declined to 4.5 percent. It is planned to beat it down to two percent by the year end," the premier added.

"The most unpleasant thing now is a pit which has formed as a result of a gap between the dynamic of price rises and currency exchange rate," Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin said concerning Russian economic reforms at a meeting of the Moscow Finance Club, as quoted by the Rossiyskiye Vesti newspaper in its Saturday issue.

According to the Russian president's assistant for economic affairs Aleksandr Lifshits who also participated in the meeting, "the government has some ten versions for the country's further development. November is a month of final decisions".

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Grachev on Russian Peacekeeping in Bosnia

LD1211233995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Nov 95

[From the "Sunday" program hosted by Aleksandr Malikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Malikov] This week a very difficult and delicate problem bearing upon Russia's self-esteem and the United States' and NATO's ambitions was settled to a considerable degree — the problem of military interaction in Bosnia. The media differ in their views of what the defense ministers of the two countries achieved in Brussels. Some are describing the results of the meeting as success, while others are saying that all that was achieved is a secondary role for Russia in a NATO-planned peacekeeping operation in which NATO troops will play the first fiddle for many months to come. We expected to get a more comprehensive and precise view in an exclusive interview that [Russian Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev gave our program.

[Begin recording] [Malikov] After the talks in Brussels you and your U.S. counterpart William Perry said that Russia's requirements were fully met. What requirements and to what degree were they met, in fact, by the U.S. side?

[Grachev] Yes, it was a difficult matter, difficult because Russia's role in the peacekeeping operation had to be defined, bypassing subordination to NATO structures. U.S. General Joulwan was appointed top commander of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. General Leontiy Shevtsov, our Russian general, will be a deputy under U.S. General Joulwan, and our brigade will be directly subordinated to Shevtsov. So orders will be issued from Joulwan to Shevtsov and the latter will pass them directly to the brigade. If General Shevtsov disagrees with an order he can stop the order or clarify it with me directly, and only after the decision has been clarified and command given to carry it out or not a relevant command will be issued. In addition, all commands given to our brigade will carry two signatures, those of Joulwan and Shevtsov.

[Malikov] Let us return to Leontiy Shevtsov. Both our and western press write that he is a general with a consultative vote and has no right to veto the orders given by the U.S. general, his superior. Is it true?

[Grachev] No, it is not true. There is the following difficulty that is yet to be resolved. The issue of our side's political control over the military in the operation to be carried out has not been solved yet. The U.S. and NATO side has solved this issue. There is the NATO council that makes political decisions and carries out political control over the troops that are part of NATO. We cannot accept this regarding our troops. So, during my conversation with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin yesterday we examined several versions of possible political control over our troops.

[Malikov] Could you name at least one version?

[Grachev] Well, I would not like to disclose it now but, let us say, national control is one of the options, that is, control by the state that is sending its troops to carry out a peacekeeping operation. After all, this is characteristic of any state, including a NATO member. Even according to NATO approaches, if the head of any NATO state disagrees on something with a decision by the NATO political leadership, he can veto certain operations. We, too have state control, and if we disagree with something we immediately report to the supreme commander who makes a relevant decision, naturally with the Security Council, and gives an order via the defense minister, that is myself, to comply or not. And I give a relevant command to Shevtsov.

[Malikov] Do you think that in this peacekeeping operation in Bosnia we and the Americans belong to different weight categories, so to speak? We are responsible for probably one-tenth of the 320 km zone covered by a U.S. brigade, the U.S. contingent, so to speak. As for numbers, the Americans plan to send some 20,000 or 25,000 there, and we — only 1,500. Do you think that this pushes Russia into the background, into playing secondary roles?

[Grachev] No, I do not think that this decision pushes Russia into playing secondary roles. First, because, according to the general task, a Russian brigade is placed in the main and most important region — the Posavina corridor [the valley of the Sava River], the area where three regions come together — Croatia, the Muslims, and the Bosnian Serbs. Main events in the implementation of the peacekeeping mission will probably take place there. Our brigade will be deployed in that area. It will have sufficient forces and means to fulfill its task. Another matter is numbers. However, quantity does not necessarily mean better quality. The point is that in all other areas tasks will be less important, so to speak. This is first.

Second, we, of course, proceed from the economic situation in our country. At present we are unable to send more troops, owing to our economic and financial difficulties.

[Malikov] You have touched upon a very interesting problem, a very interesting issue that has proved to be quite knotty because it is not quite clear who and at what stage of the peacekeeping operation will pay

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our troops. Some say that the European Union will pay them, but yesterday I came across an INTERFAX report quoting an official representative from your department as saying that the U.S. and NATO should be paying for everything.

[Grachev] There are many conjectures with regard to that, but I am telling you about the real state of things, what we agreed upon. This issue was poignant from the very first day. It was always at the top of the agenda. The final decision is as follows: Troops taking part in the first stage of the operation, i.e. the disengagement of the warring sides, are to finance their units and subunits independently, i.e from the budget of a country that sends its troops to take part in the operation. So, Russia is to pay for its brigade and all its expenses from its own public coffers. The United States will pay from its coffers, and all other states likewise.

[Malikov] The following question arises here: How long will this phase last? How long this disengagement will continue for? Months, days, weeks, or years?

[Grachev] I made some careless remarks at the start of the Chechen operation and therefore, I do not want now...[pauses] I have learned. I paid for those remarks, and I am still paying for them. Therefore, I do not want to name any exact dates. Not that I can do this anyway because it is very difficult to foresee how things will develop at the beginning.

[Malikov] But this will determine how much money will be allocated for this operation, right?

[Grachev] Well, it was decided that this operation will take up to a year. Therefore, we plan to finance this operation for a year. We made some rough estimates in this year's prices, November 1995 prices, without taking into account future inflation, and we are talking about a total sum of 50-60 billion rubles a year.

[Malikov] Do you think that our Armed Forces may encounter problems when this issue is examined by the Federation Council, for example?

[Grachev] I do not rule out that there will be certain difficulties when this issue is examined at the Federation Council. The Federation Council can, of course, change some figures, but as far as I know, the Federation Council already made a decision in principle to send our troops to Bosnia. [end recording]

[Malikov] A detailed plan for Russia's participation in the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia will be drawn up during Pavel Grachev's next visit to Brussels, which is expected to take place on 27 November. But prior to this, on 23 November at noon, Pavel Grachev is expected to meet the Russian president again to receive additional instructions from him. The defense minister told us that the president will also instruct him on the content and key points of his 20-minute speech at the NATO headquarters.

Composition of Contingent Detailed

MK1011105995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "Grachev's Success. RF and U.S. Agree on Main Principles of Military Interaction in the Balkans"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Russian contingent, which will be represented by a composite airborne brigade, is expected to include subunits of the 119th Airborne Regiment, deployed in the town of Naro-Fominsk, and the Tula Airborne Division, which General Lebed at one time commanded. A detailed plan of the operation will be produced during Pavel Grachev's next visit to Brussels, which is tentatively planned for 27 November.

Officers of the Tula Airborne Division have good combat experience gained in hot spots of the ex-USSR. They are thought to be able to assess competently the situation on a battlefield and make correct decisions under extreme conditions. Behind the officers of the sadly remembered 119th Airborne Regiment is the storming of the Russian Supreme Soviet in October 1993. The regiment's conscripts became notorious last year by organizing a large-scale fight with Naro-Fominsk youths, which a unit of the oblast's special-purpose militia detachment had to be called out to end.

Other urgent questions, including the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, were also touched upon in the course of Grachev's meeting with Perry.

The Russian Federation defense minister plans to report the results of his trip to President Boris Yeltsin today. Also to be discussed there, in the Central Clinical Hospital, are some personnel questions. According to reliable information from the Defense Ministry, Grachev plans to touch upon the question of the possibility of having Lieutenant General Valeriy Yevnevich appointed to the position of Moscow Military District commander.

Politicians Could Still Sink Plan for Bosnia

MK1111143095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "Talks on Ex-Yugoslavia" rubric: "Politicians Still Can Order Military Men 'As You Were!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pavel Grachev, who returned to Moscow from Brussels late Thursday night [9 Novem-

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ber], reported the results of his two-day trip to Boris Yeltsin yesterday. The minister had something to talk about — in Brussels, not only did William Perry and he finally agree on a plan for Russian participation in the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia (KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported this in detail yesterday), but they also agreed to hold joint large-scale maneuvers in "a European country" (which could possibly be joined by contingents of other armies) in the fall of 1996, and also to open a Russian office at the NATO Supreme Command in Europe. Ilya Bulavinov reports.

Initially, Grachev's visit to the sanctum sanctorum — the NATO Supreme Command, Europe, was not on the minister's itinerary. Grachev did not even take a general's uniform along from Moscow and, for this reason, looked somewhat embarrassed at a ceremonial reception given by four-star General Joulwan, NATO supreme commander, Europe, in his dark-blue civilian suit. This did not affect the results of the Russian minister's visit to Belgium, though. Interestingly, just a few minutes before Grachev's arrival, a Russian officer who had spent nearly a month at the NATO command under Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov working out details of the peacekeeping operation complained to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent about a lack of normal work conditions. For this reason the signing of a document on the official opening of a Russian office at the Supreme Command building by Grachev came as a pleasant surprise for the Russians who work there. All the more so because the NATO command was not sparing — Russia was given a whole floor, and its interior astonished even Grachev, who has seen a great deal in his life. Given that a large group of Russian officers — commanders of the units that will be part of the peacekeeping brigade — is due to arrive in Belgium before long for consultations with NATO military men, this was a pleasant gift.

Generally speaking, the attitude of European servicemen to the Russians (not just military men) was surprising. For instance, the ID of the Russian Embassy's press attache and his oral statement that journalists from Moscow had arrived with him were enough to get us permits to enter NATO headquarters in Brussels. Throwing a passing glance at our passports (no newspaper IDs were requested), an official issued entry permits within 5 minutes. At the NATO Supreme Command, the procedures were even more relaxed. Initially, however, the press attache greatly surprised the sleepy duty officer with the question: "Has he not passed yet?" "Who?" the officer responded lethargically. "Why, General Grachev, the Russian defense minister, is coming here." "Are you serious?!" the NATO officer could not believe his ears. Journalists did not even have to leave their minivan in order to enter the Supreme Command compound — the diplomat's remark "They are with me" proved to be a perfect password. Having pushed his way to the entrance in anticipation of Grachev's arrival, your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent attempted to find out whether he could contact his newspaper. Local journalists categorically dismissed this possibility and advised him to call from a public phone booth. But a U.S. colonel, upon listening to the request of "a journalist from Moscow," did not ask a single question, abruptly uttering: "Follow me," and led two Russian correspondents to his office (no documents were needed on our way there either), where he allowed us to make calls to Moscow.

It is all pleasing, of course, but the two countries' legislators are still cool, to put it mildly, about the dispatch of such contingents. While Strobe Talbott, U.S. assistant secretary of state, called the agreement on the military aspects of the operation reached by Grachev and Perry "perfect," and General Joulwan even devised the formula "NATO plus Russia equals Success in Bosnia," convincing the Republican majority in Congress to give the go-ahead to U.S. diplomats and servicemen will be a hard thing to do.

To all appearances, their Russian counterparts are also in for problems at home. Vladimir Shumeyko recalled yesterday that "the Defense Ministry has room for maneuver to implement the agreements between Ministers Grachev and Perry on bringing Russian peacekeeping forces to Bosnia without the Federation Council's decision:" In his words, there are already two Russian peacekeeping battalions in the region, while the Federation Council's decision on the matter "allowed the presence of up to 3,000 men, and there are currently fewer men there." The speaker probably did not know that the airborne troops currently deployed in the former Yugoslavia cannot be engaged in the operation for a number of reasons. First, they are simply not ready to fulfill the missions of, let's say, disengaging the warring sides or carrying out combat engineering work; and, second, Russia effectively does not own the equipment these troops currently have in service — the UN has paid compensation for it, that is, has virtually bought the hardware. So the Federation Council's consent to dispatch an extra contingent will still undoubtedly have to be requested, all the more so because, to all appearances, Russian military men will be unable to stay within the limits referred to by Shumeyko. A high-ranking Russian general told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent in Brussels that in addition to airborne troops, an artillery division, combat engineer subunits, a helicopter detachment, and support subunits (to set up and service ammunition depots) will be needed in Bosnia.

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The speaker would not promise anything yesterday, saying only that "if the Federation Council's decision is required, the upper chamber of the parliament will consider this matter." Moreover, the financial side to the problem is still unresolved. By Grachev's estimate, Russian expenses to carry out the operation will amount to tens of billion of rubles. It is yet unclear where this money will come from — the Defense Ministry has no money even to feed its soldiers and officers, because the government never paid the military for Chechnya.

The most important question — whether the operation will take place at all — is also unclear, however. Grachev wrung from Perry nearly everything he wanted regarding the military part of the operation. He can probably also convince the alliance's leaders at the NATO Council's meeting on 28 November to make concessions with regard to political control over the operation (Moscow insists on a UN mandate and a "16 plus 1" format to approve specific actions). Much will depend on how the talks in Dayton end and to what extent the military men's decisions will be approved by the politicians not only of Russia and the United States, but also other NATO member states.

Efforts To Lift Yugoslav Sanctions Discussed at UN

LD1111133495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0725 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 11 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "Russia's UN mission is at present working on the issue of lifting the sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia and on the Bosnian Serbs," Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister, who is now in the United States, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. He said: "We consider that the question of sanctions should not fall outside the framework of the peace talks in Dayton. The talks are under way, and the more productive they are, the closer it should be to the time to lift the sanctions. We are therefore now discussing here how, in what form, and at what time this issue should be raised in the UN Security Council."

The second issue that Igor Ivanov has been engaged on at the United Nations is connected with Russian efforts to resolve matters relating to humanitarian deliveries of fuel to Yugoslavia at the UN's sanctions committee. "It is at present considering several of our submissions, and one of the aims of my trip is connected with as soon as possible facilitating the passage of these matters and receiving the agreement of the UN sanctions committee to deliveries of gas and fuel oil to Yugoslavia," the Russian Foreign Ministry representative said.

Speaking of the fate of the draft Security Council resolution on stopping and subsequently lifting all sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — which was drawn up some time ago by the Russian delegation — Igor Ivanov said: "One of our aims is to continue talks with the sides and to arrive at a mutually acceptable accord. The Russian delegation is trying to have the sanctions lifted as soon as possible."

Moscow To Ship Diesel Fuel to Former Yugoslavia

LD1111081295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Sergey Bazhenov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is shortly to ship diesel fuel as humanitarian aid to cities of former Yugoslavia which are situated in the epicentre of the Bosnian conflict.

The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations told ITAR-TASS on Friday that a total of 20,000 tonnes of fuel will be delivered there in several stages.

The first consignment of 5,000 tonnes of low sulphur content diesel fuel will be shipped to Belgrade via the Danube river route and further to the cities which are experiencing an acute shortage of fuel as a result of the economic blockade.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations said that details of the Russian fuel supply programme are being currently considered by the Russian government. The programme is being carried out by Russia on the U.N. request. Russia has been given sanctions to transport fuel via the Danube.

"Until now we had not shipped fuel to the Yugoslavian civilian population. The supplies were made through U.N. channels for meeting requirements of Swedish, Dutch and Russian international mobile detachments for emergency situations. The exported Russian fuel fully conforms to international standards", the ministry said.

Russia will supply diesel oil to Yugoslavia for a long time. The fact that one of the largest Russian oil concern Lukoil, as ITAR-TASS managed to learn, has begun reequipping one of its processing units for the production of low sulphur content fuel testifies to it.

Special Financing Needed for Russian NATO Operations

LD1011143795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's part in NATO operations

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in the Balkans requires a special state programme of financing, believes Sergey Glotov, Chairman of a Subcommittee of the State Duma Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Regional Policy.

If the zone of the responsibility of Russian troops, as is predicted, will be the Posavskiy corridor, the key region of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the territories of the three Bosnian sides are linked, the intensity of the service will be very high, Glotov told ITAR-TASS on Friday. He said this will require considerable expenditures for the upkeep and the increase of the numerical strength of units.

"The presence of Russia in Bosnia and Herzegovina is preferable for the stabilisation in that European region. I got convinced of this during my recent visit to the Balkans, due to conversations I had with officers and men from the Russian battalions and with local residents in districts where Russian troops are stationed," Glotov said.

The placing of the peacekeeping operation under NATO auspices radically changes the situation in financing the troops, he said. The United Nations stops allocating funds and Russia will help to find possibilities for the upkeep of its troops in the Balkans. As the military budget does not envisage special expenditures for such large-scale international operations, the Russian government should work out a purpose-oriented programme. The programme should be drawn up with the participation of economists and military. It is important to take into account the experience of other countries whose peacekeeping units stay in the Balkans, Glotov said.

The programme submitted to the State Duma will be additionally investigated and will serve as a basic document for the Federation Council in deciding, as envisaged under the Constitution, on the expediency and possibility of dispatching Russian troops outside Russia's limits, Glotov believes.

Moscow Said To Still Favor Meeting on Yugoslavia

LD1111175295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 11 (INTERFAX) — The Russian president's special envoy for settlement in the former Yugoslavia, Aleksandr Zotov, has confirmed the idea of holding a meeting between the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia in Moscow under the aegis of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"The idea of holding such a meeting between Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic, Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman and Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic will certainly be carried out at a certain stage," Zotov told INTERFAX in an interview.

"If the talks in Dayton (Ohio, the U.S.) result in drafting some frame agreement, a quantity of administrative, humanitarian, economic and other issues will arise," Zotov said. "The Moscow meeting under the 3+1 formula, which should have preceded the Dayton talks but was postponed because of President Yeltsin's illness, may be a phase in settlement of these issues," he said.

Zotov said he hoped that the frame agreement and corresponding supplementary documents would be coordinated within one or two weeks "if everything goes alright in Dayton." "The contact group realizes that the talks have to be dynamic. It is desirable that the basic documents be initialled before the end of November," he said.

Zotov admitted that the U.S.' demand that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic be excluded from the political process "does not help to develop this process." "However, the problem as it was raised is unlikely to bring the peace process to a deadlock or fully jeopardize it," he said. "The peace process is not that fragile," Zotov said.

Official Welcomes Agreement on Eastern Slavonia

LD1211192395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1840 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zagreb, 12 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A framework agreement on eastern Slavonia, Baranje, and western Srem was signed on 12 November. This document gives an opportunity to solve problems by peaceful and political means in this region of Croatia, where Serbs comprise the majority of the population. This was said by Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister and head of the Russian delegation at talks on the former Yugoslavia. Thus, he said, it created a real possibility to avoid a tragedy similar to the one that happened earlier in Krajina when thousands of Serbs lost their homes and became refugees.

The sense of responsibility and realism shown by Zagreb and local Serb authorities have made the agreements possible. The essential contribution to the conclusion of agreements was made by T. Stoltenberg, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and the Contact Group member-states.

The agreement involves the restoration of safety guarantees, damaged by years of conflict, for the whole population in the area; equal human rights for Croats,

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Serbs, and members of other nationalities; conditions for refugees to return; and normalization of their life together as a whole.

Eastern Slavonia, which lies between Croatia and Yugoslavia, was always a contentious point. Tension there has begun to grow considerably in recent times. A direct and terrible Serbian-Croatian confrontation has been avoided thanks to the Russian contingent, which has carried out this difficult peacekeeping mission for several years.

This agreement removes the fundamental obstacles to normal relations between Croatia and Yugoslavia, and is significant to a major peace settlement to the Balkans crisis, he continued.

Russia is further prepared to help progress in this direction and develop traditionally friendly relations with Belgrade and Zagreb," said Ivanov.

Moscow Anxious Over Tudjman Statement

LD1111104895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow expresses anxiety over the statement made by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, to the effect that Zagreb may resort to using force in tackling the problem of Eastern Slavonia, unless political means succeed in reintegrating this Serb-populated region of the republic by 30 November. This was stated by Aleksandr Zotov, Russian presidential envoy for the settlement of crisis in the former Yugoslavia, in an interview with the INTERFAX news agency. At the same time, he expresses hope that the statement by Franjo Tudjman is an antagonistic inertia which would be done away with at the talks in Dayton between the leaders of Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia.

Presidential Press Service on Yeltsin-Grachev Meeting

LD1011182995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian presidential press service distributed a report on Friday's [10 November] meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

The report said:

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin met today Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev who reported on results of talks with the U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry. The Russian President approved Defence Ministry efforts to work out Russia's stand on the Bosnian settlement and recommended that the military agency, together with the Russian Foreign Ministry and other agencies, drafted joint approaches to resolving the question of political control of an international peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Pavel Grachev reported to Boris Yeltsin on the opening, within the Partnership for Peace programme, of a Russian military mission at the NATO headquarters in Brussels. The Russian President authorised the defence minister to deliver a brief report at (a session of the NATO Council to express Russia's stance on the issues of partnership and peacekeeping activities.

"The Russian President approved proposals of the Russian Defence and Foreign Ministries to hold intergovernmental consultations on transferring the functions of the Russian peace force contingent to several units within the Russian troops' operational group in the Trans-Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova.

"The Russian President received today a report on the state of affairs in the Russian Armed Forces. The defence minister informed Boris Yeltsin on measures which are being taken to reduce the Armed Forces' strength.

"Army General Pavel Grachev also informed the President on a session of defence ministers of CIS member states, which was held in Moscow recently. Boris Yeltsin approved the Defence Ministry proposals to build cooperation with military agencies of the countries within the Commonwealth (of Independent States)."

Yeltsin Orders Division to Remain in Moldova

LD1111145195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Peacekeeping divisions of Russian land troops are waiting their two battalions back from Moldova's breakaway Dniester enclave.

A Defence Ministry spokesman told ITAR-TASS today that the 45th and 27th motorised infantry divisions deployed respectively in the Leningrad and Orenburg regions are preparing to re-incorporate the battalions after the Russian president's decree left in the Dniester region a peacekeeping motorised infantry division in the stead of the reformed Russian 14th Army.

The rump army left by the reform was taken over from General Aleksandr Lebed, after his clenched-teeth resignation, by Lieutenant-General Yevgeniy Yevnevich.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told a briefing after his Friday meeting with President Yeltsin that the

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newly formed peacekeeping division remaining in the Dniester enclave is Russian to the last soldier, referring to the fact that many officers of the former 14th Army were indigenous to the region.

He said Yeltsin's decision to assign the Dniester division to peacekeeping would be negotiated with the Moldovan leadership.

Grachev on Reorganization in Dniester

LD1011173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1607 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A motorized infantry division up to 90 percent strength, has been established after the reorganization of the former 14th Army in Dniester region. Conscripts from Dniester region have been dismissed and conscripts from Russia have been brought in. All the structures set up by former commander Aleksandr Lebed and engaged in counterintelligence, intelligence, sabotage, and other activities have been removed from the division. "At present the division is fully Russian — starting from the commander and finishing with the personnel," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said at a briefing today after a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The minister said he had discussed the role of Russian troops in Dniester region with Boris Yeltsin.

In future Russia intends to use this division in Dniester region as a peacekeeping unit. This option will be discussed with the leadership of Moldova. Battalions from the Leningrad and Volga military districts, which are currently engaged in peacekeeping operations in Dniester region will be withdrawn after an appropriate agreement is reached. The battalions will be replaced by subunits of the former 14th Army stationed in Dniester region, Grachev said.

Germ, Chemical Weapons Storage Denied

LD1111103095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Lieutenant-General Valeriy Yevnevich, the commander of Russian troops stationed in Moldova's breakaway Transdniester enclave, denied that the former Russian 14th Army has bacteriological and chemical weapons in its storages.

He said that the recent media allegations to this effect are another wave of disinformation engineered by local unscrupulous reporters in pursuit of sensations.

He related previous media-traded rumours to the resignation the 14th Army's commander General Aleksandr Lebed, now a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities electoral bloc.

The local weekly DELOVAYA GAZETA alleged in its article late in August that there is "a mass of bacteriological and chemical weapons" in the army's storages.

Yevnevich cited the Russian Defence Ministry which dismissed the report, calling it provocational.

Yevnevich said he thought the new sensation-stirring reports emanated from local leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities, who exploited the appeal of Lebed's name in their scrambling for seats in the local legislature to be elected soon.

Ministry Source on Alterations Needed to CFE Treaty

LD1111152995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 11 (INTERFAX) — Moscow does not stand for increasing the quantity of arms in the flank areas stipulated by the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), a source in the Defense Ministry told INTERFAX on Saturday. However Russia demands that the map of the flank areas indicated in the treaty be altered, the source said.

Under the CFE Treaty Russia can keep in its regular army units stationed in the southern (the North-Caucasus Military District) and northern (Leningrad Military District) parts of its flank only 700 tanks, 580 armored vehicles and 1280 artillery systems.

"We agree with these quantities, but we find it necessary to stop viewing Krasnodar Territory, the Republic of Adigeya, Rostov Region and Volgograd Region as the flank zone in the south, and consider them as the rear, the source said. In the northern part of the flank, Novgorod, Vologda and Pskov Regions must be viewed as the rear.

Under the CFE Treaty the rear includes the Moscow Military District, the Volga Valley Military District and Kaliningrad Region. The regular army units stationed in the rear can have up to 4275 tanks, 9945 armored vehicles and 3825 artillery systems.

"Russia does not want to revise the quantity of military equipment stipulated by the treaty; it only suggests that

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the map of the flank zones should be altered," the military official said.

The West "will understand our initiatives," he noted. "As a matter of fact, tangible progress in the efforts to resolve the problem of flanks was reached at the talks between Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry held in Geneva, Washington and Brussels," the source pointed out.

The deadline for implementing the CFE Treaty expires on November 16. An anternational observer commission is expected to arrive in Russia on that day.

Disarmament Expert: ABM Treaty Should Not be Revised

LD1111142895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — The Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty), concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1972, should not be revised, claimed Pavel Podvig, an expert from the Russian centre on studies of disarmament, energy and ecology, in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Saturday.

He said that press reports on achieved understandings between Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry concerning amendments to the document "presuppose attentive study of the essence of proposed changes by Russian legislative power."

It is expedient to undertake an examination of American amendments, on making which the U.S. insisted since 1993.

Podvig noted that proposals on making amendments are "based on a desire by the American side to continue work on designing ABM systems, the development and production of which are prohibited by the 1972 treaty.

"If the Russian side agrees to a revision of this document, the international community will lose the most efficient instrument to prevent the race of offensive and defensive weapons, which will inevitably upset strategic stability," the expert stressed.

Defending its interests in ensuring its national security, Russia, according to Podvig, cannot agree to emaciation of the ABM Treaty. Consequences of a change of this document will be quite different for the United States and Russia.

The U.S. will be able to strengthen its role of the dominating nuclear power. This idea was taken into account by the sides when they concluded agreements on cutting strategic nuclear arms.

"Our country had grounds at that time to connect observation of the ABM Treaty with its participation in disarmament," Podvig noted.

Suggested amendments, the expert said, "can look only as specification of treaty provisions. In real fact, the matter in question is the fate of one of the most effective agreements in the sphere of arms control."

"When debating a possibility of making amendments to the ABM Treaty, our legislators should take into account all possible consequences of such modification of the international agreement, vitally important for Russia," Podvig said.

Federation Council Protests NATO's Eastward Expansion

MM1011200595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (Documents Section) in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 5

["Statement of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council on NATO's Eastward Expansion," dated Moscow, 25 October 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] The increase in NATO's political and military activeness in Central and East Europe leaves no doubt that the gradual implementation of the plans for the bloc's expansion by the inclusion in it of the states of East Europe and republics of the former USSR has begun.

Such a development of the situation in Europe cannot leave Russia, the largest country in the region and the successor in law to the USSR, unconcerned.

The NATO war machine's movement toward the Russian Federation's borders creates a serious threat to Russia's political, economic, and military security, destabilizes the situation in the zone of NATO's expansion from the Black Sea to the Baltic, threatens the development of the process of rapprochement between Russia and the countries of East Europe and the United States, and also jeopardizes the deepening of mutual confidence-building measures.

Russia has so far refrained from steps to strengthen its military security in connection with NATO's attempts to change the disposition of forces in East Europe in the hope that common sense and the love of peace will prevail in all European states, both bloc members and non-members. However, Russia's unilateral show of concern for the strengthening and development of the positive processes in Europe and the world will not

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yield the expected results without counter moves from those countries.

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council expresses a resolute protest against NATO's eastward expansion and calls on the parliaments and governments of the European states and the United States to be consistent in the implementation of their proclaimed policy of rapprochement between Russia and the West European countries and the United States and not allow the process of the reduction of the level of confrontation in Europe to be curtailed to suit the NATO leadership's ambitions.

[signed] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[dated] Moscow, 25 October 1995
No. 650-I

Yeltsin Endorses Statute on Council of Europe Commission

LD0911221995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1646 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has endorsed by his instruction the statute on an interdepartmental commission for the preparation of the entry of the Russian Federation into the Council of Europe. The head of state's press service told ITAR-TASS this today.

The commission's main functions, the document notes, are as follows:

To coordinate the work of the federal bodies of state power to ensure the entry of the Russian Federation into the Council of Europe and to assist in the development of cooperation with it;

To study the experience of the member-countries of the Council of Europe in preparing for entry into the Council of Europe and adhering to its statutory documents, and in perfecting national legislation and practice in conforming to the law of the European states in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe.

The commission's tasks, the document notes, include coordinating work on the participation of the Russian Federation in enactments by the Council of Europe, as well as analyzing the effectiveness of Russian policy in relation to the Council of Europe and preparing recommendations on questions of the development of cooperation with it.

Cossacks Demonstrate, Threaten Action in Kazakhstan

LD1211150395 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russians and Cossacks in Kazakhstan are the victims of ethnic discrimination, demonstrators declared at a rally outside Kazakhstan's Embassy in Moscow on 12 November. The demonstrators consider the republic's leaders to be the main ones to blame for this policy. It was announced at the rally that several leaders of the Russian community in Kazakhstan had been arrested recently. For example, Nikolay Gunkin, ataman of the Semirechye Cossack Host, is currently in a grave condition after being arrested and savagely beaten up.

The demonstrators warned the Kazakhtan authorities that if the ataman dies, the Cossacks reserve the right to take retaliatory action.

Foreign Ministry Disagrees Over Treaty With DPRK

LD0911182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — In separate statements, two Russian Foreign Ministry officials gave sharply differing interpretations of the treaty which governs relations between Russia and North Korea.

The treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and North Korea of 1961 "with account to well-known objective circumstances has become outdated and does not correspond to the new realities established in Russia, in the Russian-Korean relations and in the North-Eastern Asia," Russian Foreign Ministry official spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow on Thursday. He offered his arguments to the dispatch published in the Diplomatic Panorama, INTERFAX, November 4.

"This treaty does not work." According to Karasin, "The Russian side has proposed to North Korea to sign a new treaty on the principles of friendly relations between the two countries which meet the interests of both countries and nations, and handed over to the Korean side the draft treaty which is being studied."

Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told INTERFAX on Thursday that "the Russian side believes that the treaty of friendship with North Korea in its updated version continues to operate."

Panov said that in 1993 the Russian side unilaterally annulled Article I of the Soviet-North Korean treaty

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of friendship. This article envisaged Moscow automatic involvement in the armed conflict on the side of North Korea in case of an aggression against the latter.

"We said that the automatic involvement is out of the question and that we ourselves will decide whether to take part or not on the side of North Korea if the latter is unprovokably attacked," said Panov.

He noted that Moscow does not intend to denounce the treaty which Pyongyang declared invalid. "There is no need in this because we are negotiating the signing of a new inter-state treaty," he said.

Asked whether it is possible to say in this connection that Russia and North Korea are military allies from the international-legal point of view, Panov said that different views could be in this sense. Theoretically, it is possible to say anything. Practically, we should bear in mind that there are no military cooperation between Russia and North Korea."

Karabakh Talks End in Moscow; Disagreements Remain

LD1211171395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By Sergey Gorbunov and Ruben Shirinyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 12 (ITAR-TASS) — Armenia and Azerbaijan ended their talks in Moscow initiated by Russia and Finland to try to determine the future status of territories occupied during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but disagreements remain.

The results of the talks were summed at the consultations of the Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Moscow between November 10-11.

Russian mediator at the talks Vladimir Kazimirov described the just-concluded round as one of the most difficult.

"This is understandable because the talks focused on the liberation of territories occupied during the conflict," he told ITAR-TASS.

Russian and Finnish diplomats put forth a number of new peace proposals, including those dealing with the Lachinsk corridor which connects Armenia with the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kazimirov noted that "I cannot say that all questions were resolved. Each party has its own demands, but this discussion will most certainly lead to specific results in the future."

Kazimirov pointed out that the next round of talks will be held in Bonn on November 22.

Russo-Macedonian Political Consultations Held in Skopje

LD1211092795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By Vladimir Abrosimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOFIA November 12 (ITAR-TASS) — Russo-Macedonian political consultations, held in Skopje on November 10-11, were a continuation of the dialogue started by the Russian and Macedonian Foreign Ministers in Moscow in July this year, said an official report made available to the ITAR-TASS bureau here.

The consultations involved Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy who had a detailed conversation with Macedonian Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski, was received by Parliament Speaker Stoyan Andov and Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski.

The two sides reaffirmed Russia's and Macedonia's mutual intention to substantially increase bilateral cooperation in the economy, science, technology and culture.

The discussion of the situation in the Balkans and of European security and stability problems confirmed the identity of the two countries' evaluations and approaches and their interest in the earliest achievement of a lasting settlement of the Yugoslav crisis with due regard for the interests of all the sides involved.

The two sides emphasised the importance of lifting the sanctions against the United Republic of Yugoslavia as soon as possible, for the sanctions also do substantial economic damage to countries which neighbour on the URYT [as received].

Chernomyrdin Receives French Finance Minister

LD1111001695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1905 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin received here on Friday French minister of economics and finance, Jean Arthuis, within the framework of his one-day visit to Russia for participation in the Russian-French Council for Economic, Financial, Industrial and Trade Cooperation.

During the meeting the Russian premier and the French minister discussed various aspects of bilateral economic

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relations, as well as a political settlement of international conflicts, including those in the Balkan countries, Nikolay Drozdov, Russian deputy minister of foreign economic relations, told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Discussing general issues of the Russian-French economic interaction both on the bilateral and multilateral basis, the sides have noted the high level of the trade turnover which has risen lately.

However, the decree of economic interaction between the two countries is still lagging behind the level of political relations, and is also below the real potential of these countries, the sides noted during the talks.

They also discussed the possible entry of the Russian Federation into the world economic system, including the World Trade Organisation.

Chernomyrdin and Arthuis noted the high impetus which had been given to bilateral relations during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent visit to France, as well as the Russian prime minister's meetings with French Premier Alain Juppe.

Specific issues of financial relations between Russia and France were discussed at the talks between Arthuis and Russian First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays later on Friday.

On the same day Arthuis is due to return to France.

Duma Deputy Adopts Pro-Iran Stand on Caspian

MK1011091795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Analysis by Konstantin Zatulin, State Duma deputy and chairman of the Committee on CIS Affairs and Liaison With Compatriots: "Russia's Interests and the Caspian Oil Consortium"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not at all the same to Russian citizens, especially those living in the south, whether Russia will still hold the keys to the Caucasus and Transcaucasus. This is the issue arising from the actual beginning of work to implement plans for the so-called Caspian Oil Consortium — an undertaking at which Azerbaijan authorities are clutching like at a straw in a bid to resolve their economic and military-political problems. The danger comes from the fact that, unlike other risky eastern projects, the idea of the Caspian Oil Consortium is based on the myopic greed of its participants, including ourselves.

As is known, Russia is represented in the Caspian Oil Consortium not directly, but through the Russian Lukoil company (it holds 10 percent of the stock). Should we, holding all the trumps in our hands, primarily considering our role as guarantor (along with Iran) of the Caspian's legal status, drop all our objections to the intervention by Western oil corporations in the Caspian, tempted by this notorious 10 percent?

I believe that such a decision would be disastrous for the future of Russian influence in the Caucasus. The hassle around the pipeline routes for Caspian oil has shown convincingly that by hook or by crook, even contrary to economic expediency, the West is trying to lay this route bypassing Russia. Where oil is extracted, where an oil river flows, engineers and operators are sooner or later followed by the military. As the experience of the war in the Persian Gulf showed, these military men wear foreign — neither Soviet nor Russian — uniforms.

The Azerbaijani authorities, who have brought themselves to a deadlock in their internal affairs by creating the oil consortium, are today trying not so much to make life easier for their citizens as to resolve the protracted conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh in their favor. The leaders of the former Union republic make no secret of their intention to appeal to NATO to protect Azerbaijani Muslims, just as NATO is now defending Bosnian Muslims in Yugoslavia. This hint alone should be enough for Russia to think about the consequences of creating the Caspian Oil Consortium.

But such consequences can be much more far-reaching with respect to Russia itself. If we recognize Azerbaijan's right to initiate a consortium to extract oil in an open sea, we shall automatically acknowledge also that arbitrary seizure of mineral deposits adjacent to the coast is also possible. This means that we in effect assume the perception of the Caspian sea — an internal reservoir, the largest lake — that is being imposed on us: As international sea waters with their own shelf and other resulting consequences; primarily the demand to regard the Volga, like the Danube, as an international transport artery. Therefore, we shall enter the third millennium with the prospect of Russia being divided by international waters at a place where an internal Russian national entity is inhabited by a Muslim population.

The Caspian Sea today is in danger: The level of water in it is sharply rising, which could result in the flooding of huge, including Russian, territories. So far scientists have not established at which mark the water onslaught will stop or what has caused it. Under these conditions, we must think not only of ourselves, but also of our posterity: Will they get a ruined Caspian or the one that we, those living today, inherited?

The Caspian Sea, in effect a closed ecosystem, can lose its riches, such as the salmon. Meanwhile, 90 percent of this fish and black caviar are produced precisely in the part of the Caspian that abuts the Volga basin. A tonne of black caviar is 1,000 times more expensive than a

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tonne of oil: What is more important to us? I believe that the activists of our environmental movements should finally pay attention to the problem of the Caspian, and support the initiative to create an association of Caspian caviar-producing states.

Until the main question — what rights the Caspian littoral states have with respect to the Caspian as such — has been resolved, until we have guarantees that Caspian oil will go to the end consumer only via Novorossiysk and Tuapse, there can be no question of a fait accompli policy, i.e. of the actual realization of the consortium plan.

In the process of negotiations with the Iranian side, the main thing was achieved: a clearcut definition of Russia's position. Until now there has been utter confusion as to what the Russian Federation Government wants after all: an illusory share in the oil consortium, or state security? A joint Russian-Iranian agreement signed following the results of the visit by the Bolshakov-Serov-Zatulin-Chernomyrdin delegation states clearly that both sides are opposed to any interference on the part of outside, non-Caspian states in Caspian affairs. Until a new legal regime for the Caspian has been defined, Russia and Iran continue to bear responsibility as depositaries of the 1921 and 1940 treaties laying down norms and rules of conduct on the Caspian Sea. The signed documents contain yet another fundamental principle: The Caspian must be indivisible, and the use of its resources is possible only with the consent of all five Caspian states: Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. I consider this a very significant step and hope that the Russian Federation Government — both the incumbent and the future one — will adhere to these documents. As for the interests of Russian oil companies, they can count on preliminary agreements on access to prospecting and extracting oil on Iranian territory.

Russia and Iran play a key role in the process in Tajikistan. Over the six months since my first visit to Iran in the spring of 1995, I have had time to see that our positions on an inter-Tajik settlement are drawing closer and closer together. Just like us, Iran is concerned that the so-called democratic opposition in Tajikistan is increasingly counting on U.S. and Western assistance in its dispute with the ruling Tajik regime.

We cannot remain indifferent to all this, because our soldiers, our border guards in the area of Tajikistan, are protecting the border of the former USSR.

I am sure that this is extremely necessary. Just as in Abkhazia, the mission of the Russian troops prevents anarchy and civil instability from spreading across Central Asia and Kazakhstan. If we leave Tajikistan just as disgracefully as we ditched our allies in Afghanistan, the epidemic will reach the Urals and Siberian lands, and lead to the inevitable fall of the post-Soviet regimes in the former Union republics. And if Kazakhstan is threatened, we shall have to intervene just the same (as is known, the overwhelming majority in Kazakhstan are Russians [and other] non-Kazakhs).

In the course of my negotiations with my Iranian colleagues we considered the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan in a comprehensive manner. These two states are like two communicating vessels: The civil war in Afghanistan (which does not seem to be nearing any completion after the pullout of Soviet troops from the country) is spilling over to Tajikistan, serving as the main breeding ground for continued inter-Tajik strife. As long as Russia and Iran compete, not collaborate, in search of peace in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, third countries, such as Pakistan and the United States, will continue to hold sway. In this context I should like to draw attention, among other things, to the long demonstrative holding by the Talibas of a Russian aircraft crew. In the course of their negotiations Russia and Iran agreed that they will work together to make sure that all Central Asian problems are discussed in Central Asia itself, not in Vienna or other West European capitals, which has recently become a trend for the Tajik opposition.

I believe that, in addition to economic benefits, the development of relations with Iran also holds out the prospect of preventing Western attempts to play the Orthodox world off against the Muslim world along the entire salient of instability: from Yugoslavia to Chechnya to Tajikistan. In this connection I should like to point out that my persistent efforts to draw the attention of the Iranian leadership to problems of a Bosnian settlement brought a certain fruit. As far as I know, Iran is ready to have an impact on the Bosnian Muslims; just like us, it does not like NATO's advancement and consolidation in Europe. Iran would like to prevent such attempts in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. All this creates a good basis for the development of bilateral relations.

Only a blind man can hope that all these problems are far from us. If we do not think about this today, tomorrow trouble will come knocking on our door, as has often been the case since the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin, Mayor Luzhkov Hold 'Substantial' Talks

LD1111181495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Reconstruction of the Moscow orbital road, a program to demolish Khrushchev-era housing, and regulation of food prices in the capital were just some of the subjects that Boris Yeltsin discussed today with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

The head of state, who is currently undergoing treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital, spent about an hour with the mayor, ITAR-TASS was told by presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev.

The mayor reported on the stockpiling of vegetables and potatoes, stressing that Moscow is fully supplied with these foodstuffs for the coming winter. As regards prices — particularly of bread, cereals, and dairy products — the president pointed out to the mayor that local authorities "should and must gently regulate prices in the capital through subsidies and improvements to food delivery terms."

Reporting on routine maintenance of roads in the capital, Luzhkov said 15 million square meters had been overhauled this year. Reconstruction of the Moscow orbital road is proceeding according to plan. Luzhkov told Yeltsin that the rebuilt stretches of the road will be opened to traffic by late November, and reconstruction work will be completed in full by the end of the year. The head of state set the target of completing reconstruction of the road for 10-lane traffic in each direction by 1998, or one year earlier than planned.

Still on the subject of roads, the head of state instructed Luzhkov to speed up the full restoration of traffic in central Moscow. Major works on Manezh Square have been causing disruption.

Luzhkov also briefed Yeltsin on progress in building new subway lines in the capital. The president said he firmly intended to continue with subway construction in the capital and ensure all the requisite finance, according to his press secretary.

Medvedev added that the president expressed his satisfaction that no less than 3.1 million square meters of new housing will be handed over in Moscow this year. He instructed the mayor to prepare for more building work in the capital as part of the 1996 program to demolish 5-story blocks of flats. Yeltsin especially pointed out that the program to replace this housing was important, not only for Moscow but for all of Russia.

The head of state expressed his interest in seeing external restoration of the Church of Christ the Savior completed next year.

The president instructed the mayor and the Construction Ministry to prepare for an all-Russia conference on boosting investment in construction, to be held in March-April next year.

Luzhkov briefed Yeltsin on the progress of snow clearance following the bad weather of the past few days. Yeltsin was critical of the way this was organized in the capital, noting that streets and courtyards were being cleared extremely poorly and that urgent improvements were needed.

As described by Medvedev, the meeting between the president and Yuriy Luzhkov "was very substantial and took place at a good working tempo."

Yeltsin Forms Commission on Council of Europe Membership

MK1011143995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Interdepartmental Commission Created To Prepare Russia for Joining Council of Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president has confirmed by his directive Regulations on an Interdepartmental Commission To Prepare for Russia's Joining the Council of Europe. The head of state's press service announced that the commission's functions are to coordinate the activities of federal authorities to secure the Russian Federation's membership in the Council of Europe [CE], and to study the experience of CE-member countries in joining this organization and [their] accession to its charter documents. The commission is also tasked with coordinating work pertaining to Russia's participation in Council of Europe projects and to analyze the effectiveness of Russian policy toward the CE.

Yeltsin Approves Ministry's Aid to Foreign States

LD1011124395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has considered a written report by Russian Minister for Emergency Situations Sergey Shoygu on the activities of his ministry, and has approved humanitarian aid to foreign states alongside other areas of the ministry's work, reports the presidential press service.

According to Shoygu's report, the Ministry for Emergency Situation has an efficient National Corps of

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Rapid Humanitarian Reaction which caters to appeals for emergency aid both in Russia, the Commonwealth and the world. Russia is thus capable of efficiently fulfilling U.N. requests, proceeding from national interests.

The National Corps is working in former Yugoslavia. In the near future the ministry will open a new humanitarian corridor for aid to the people of Serbia and Montenegro. The first Russian tanker will bring fuel to Belgrade via the Danube several days later.

Commenting on the humanitarian actions of his ministry, Shoygu noted the recent assistance of ministry medics to the crew of a Russian plane detained in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and planned regular action in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Yeltsin Calls For Review of Federation Council Law

LD1111215395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2148 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin refused to consider a new law on the formation of the Federation Council and returned it to the State Duma for review on Saturday.

The law passed by the Duma had been voted down by the Federation Council, but the lower house overruled its veto and sent the law to the president for signing.

However, the president rejected it, saying that the bill contained a number of "serious violations of the procedure for the adoption of the law."

Yeltsin advised the Duma to review the law.

The move followed Yeltsin's meeting with Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeiko in the Central Clinical Hospital, where the president is recovering from a heart attack, earlier today.

Shumeyko outlined the concept of a new draft law on the Federation Council which is now being worked out by the upper house after the State Duma ignored its criticism of the previous bill.

At first the Duma refused to consider the president's version of the law on the Federation Council and adopted on October 11 its own draft law which was rejected by the upper house on October 25. However, two days later the Duma overruled its veto and sent the draft law to the president for signing.

On October 30, Shumeyko sent Yeltsin a letter asking him not to sign the draft law, pointing out that its enactment "can paralyse the Federation Council's work for a relatively long period of time after elections to the State Duma."

Under the proposed bill, the maximum number of members that the Council is likely to have by January is 106 while it needs at least 130 deputies in order to begin its work.

This will inevitably lead to a situation where "the State Duma will become the only house of the Federal Assembly," Shumeiko said.

In addition, Shumeyko insists that not only members of the Russian Federation, but also the federal authorities should be represented in the Federation Council.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday [10 November], Shumeyko said that he had prepared a new draft law on the Federation Council which had been sent out to Russian regions. Fifty of them have fully approved it, others had some reservations. He believes that the draft law may be adopted by the parliament before December 17.

"If not, it won't be a disaster," Shumeyko said, adding that the present Federation Council can carry on until a new one begins its work.

In his message to the Duma, the president wrote, "I have to return, without consideration, the text of the federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' sent for signing to the President of the Russian Federation on October 31, 1995 by the Chairman of the State Duma."

"As the verbatim report of the October 11, 1995 session of the State Duma shows, no draft law was put to vote for adoption on the whole, which means that the submitted text cannot be considered adopted by the State Duma as provided for in part 2 of Article 105 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation," he said.

"On October 11, 1995, the State Duma debated a draft federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' submitted by the President of the Russian Federation, and rejected it after voting. After that the State Duma voted, in violation of Articles 100 and 102 of its Statute, for some draft law with amendments proposed by members of the Committee for Legislation, and Judicial and Legal Reform, which had been handed out to the deputies and articulated by V.Isakov. However, the text of the draft law did not exist. There were only amendments to the draft law submitted by the President of the Russian Federation.

"The Federation Council received the text of the federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' which differed in volume and the content of some

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articles both from the draft federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' submitted by the President of the Russian Federation and rejected by the State Duma, and from the amendments proposed by the members of the Committee for Legislation, and Judicial and Legal Reform and handed out to the deputies of the State Duma.

"Nevertheless, the Federation Council decided to consider the text of the federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' and rejected it on the whole on October 25, 1995.

"Considering the foregoing, I believe that the serious violations of the procedure for the adoption by the State Duma of the federal law 'On the Procedure for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation' do not make it possible to consider the text submitted to the President.

Yeltsin Rejects Law on Status of Deputies

LD1011102695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0918 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — In accordance with the Russian Constitution, today Russian President Boris Yeltsin rejected the federal law, "On the status of a deputy of the Federation Council and State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly."

Rejects Law on Federally Owned Shares

LD1111214095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2008 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today sent back to the State Duma the law "On Disposal of Federally Owned Shares in Companies formed during Privatization". The law was passed by the State Duma on October 1995 and endorsed by the Federation Council on 25 October. The head of state's press office told ITAR-TASS that in explaining his reasons, Boris Yeltsin wrote the following.

"It must be noted that implementation of this law would involve changes to state obligations and additional expenditure from the federal budget. It would also reduce the revenue base of the federal budget. Therefore, this law can enter into force only if there is a recommendation from the Russian government. However, there is no such recommendation attached to this law, thus it was adopted in violation of part 3 of article 104 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

"In reality, this law entails the possible sale, mortgage or placement in trust of federally-owned shareholdings in companies formed during the privatization process only in those circumstances, in that procedure and on those terms stipulated by a federal law. There is no such federal law at present, which would render it impossible for the Government of the Russian Federation to exercise its constitutional powers to manage federal property. This runs counter to Clause 1 of Article 114 of the Russian Federation Constitution.".

The president considers that "on the whole, this law is of a proscriptive nature and completely destroys the existing system for disposing of federally-owned shareholdings. Yet it does not establish a new mechanism. This would greatly hinder the privatization process and cut privatization revenues to the federal budget. Also, implementation of this law would place additional spending requirements on the federal budget, since the state would be obliged to compensate for losses arising from its failure to perform its duties."

Rejects Law on Stable Energy Supplies

LD1111224795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1954 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today rejected a Federal Law "On the stabilization of energy supplies to the population, organizations and companies." The president rejected the law "because it does not correspond to the Constitution of the Russian Federation and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation and because of the undesirability of its adoption," said the press service of the head of the Russian state said.

The president, substantiating his position in a letter to the State Duma, in particular remarked, "it is improper for the energy-providing organizations under the jurisdiction of Russian Federation members, in municipal and private ownership, to be regulated by this federal law. By this, the federal law contradicts clause "G" in Article 71 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, according to which only the federal energy systems are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

Article 1 of the federal law bans the cutting off of electricity and heat as a result of consumers' arrears in an entire area, to health, education and social welfare organizations, public utilities, to industrial companies in the most important branches of the economy, to organizations of the Defense ministry, the internal Affairs Ministry, the Federal Border Service and to agricultural producers.

Formulated in such a general way, this norm contradicts Part 1 of Article 8 of the Constitution of the Russian

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Federation, which guarantees freedom of economic activity. It also contradicts Clause 2 of Article 1 of the Russian Civil Code, which develops this constitutional position and says the fact that civic rights can be limited by federal law but only to the extent necessary to protect the foundations of the constitutional order, morality, health, rights and legal interests of others and the safeguarding the country's defense and security.

Yeltsin Promotes Interior, Security Chiefs

LD0911133395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday signed decrees promoting Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov and head of the Federal Security Service (FSB) Mikhail Barsukov to the supreme military rank of Army General, the presidential press service reported.

Yeltsin Appoints Sidorov Deputy Foreign Minister

LD0911180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — President Boris Yeltsin announced support for his embattled foreign minister during a Thursday meeting with Andrey Kozyrev at the Central Clinical Hospital, INTERFAX was told at the Foreign Ministry.

The president "voiced support for Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and gave instructions to step up the efforts of the Foreign Ministry to coordinate foreign policy activities under the direct leadership of the Russian head of state."

At the end of the meeting the president "gave instructions, primarily to strengthen integration processes within the CIS, to defend Russian interests in Europe, in the Bosnian settlement in particular, and to resolve the problem of flank restrictions in the context of the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty".

At the suggestion of the ministry the president also appointed Vasiliy Sidorov deputy foreign minister in charge of strengthening the personnel, the ministry announced.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Meeting With Yeltsin

LD0911203395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Nikolay Svanidze in Moscow after Kozyrev's meeting with President Boris Yeltsin on 9 November; from the "Details" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kozyrev] In general, I have seen people after they have suffered heart complications, and I must say that the president in actual fact looks cheerful and well. I regret that the television cameras were not there today. Moreover, I said to the president that I would have liked, of course, them to see him as he was today.

[Svanidze] Andrey Vladimirovich, your last meeting with the president was, let us say, at a critical phase of your relationship. This is the first time that you have met him since then. Was there any follow-up today to the whole situation connected with his criticisms of you?

[Kozyrev] Yes, there was, but the follow-up was, I would say, in a friendly tone. It was a conversation between long-standing comrades-in-arms. The president expressed a thought, which I myself had been thinking beforehand, especially when some of the mass media in our country — not in the West, it should be said, but in our country — had been pushing the line that I should take offense and react in various ways. You know, we all work in extremely difficult conditions, and the president is vastly overburdened in his work. I am speaking of the pressure from dark forces, which does exist, and the pressure of various kinds of circumstances, and so on. Indeed, the president today expressed this thought. He said that there had been a large number of difficult and complex moments in his life and a large number of occasions when he had said felicitous or less felicitous things, but this does not mean that one should take emotional decisions or get into a huff. It is still necessary to work for the good of the state. This was his main thought today, and the president today expressed his backing for the minister. Backing for the minister is precisely what he said. Moreover, I even have this in written form.

[Svanidze] Do you mean that he wrote you some kind of letter saying: I back you?

[Kozyrev] Well, not exactly, but I have a document with his signature that directly contains the words saying that the president backs the minister. But let me tell you a final thing, possibly the most important thing, about the conversation today. At my last meeting with you, I said that what is important for me is our course. Today I was talking to the president — who I have long known and knew five years ago at the most difficult stages of our development — namely, a president who is set on pursuing an open foreign-policy course and a course of defending our national state interests, not by confrontation with the surrounding world, but by partnership and interaction. This, in my opinion, is the

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most important thing. As for all the other issues of coordination and so on, we shall be tackling them.

Spokesman Denies Edict on Kozyrev's Dismissal

LD0911201395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin Thursday refuted mass media reports stating that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has prepared a decree on Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's dismissal and that presidential aide on international affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov is among Kozyrev's most probable successors.

Addressing a briefing in Moscow Karasin underlined that "such insinuations negatively affect the work of Russia's Foreign Ministry as a whole." "We do not take them into consideration because they do not correspond to the reality," he noted.

Kozyrev chaired a working conference in the Foreign Ministry Wednesday [8 November], Karasin said. Ryurikov also took part in the conference.

"It was a very intense conference devoted to coordination and interaction between different Russian departments in the sphere of foreign policy," Karasin noted.

Premier Orders Antiterrorism 'State of Emergency'

MK1011121095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chernomyrdin Puts Moscow on State of Emergency Owing to Threat of Terrorist Acts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New measures to prevent the delivery to Moscow of arms, ammunition, and explosives have been confirmed in a federal government directive.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has tasked law and order agencies, together with municipal authorities, with organizing a joint examination of vehicles, freight, hand luggage, and baggage of passengers suspected of carrying weapons arriving in the capital's airports, railroad, river, and bus stations. Militiamen and counterintelligence operatives have now been given the right to, if necessary, conduct an examination of passengers.

But this is not all. Militiamen will, with the participation of the special services, carry out in November checks at enterprises, organizations, and institutions that keep and use arms in their work. The checks will primarily affect the security services of banks, private detective offices, and security firms. Checks will also be carried out in all VOKhR [paramilitary security forces] subunits.

To prevent terrorist acts, Chernomyrdin has tasked the Moscow Government with organizing reinforced alert duty at facilities of special importance and increased risk (chemical and defense enterprises, oil refineries and gas plants, communications institutions, transport and energy utilities, and the metro).

In order to protect Moscow against terrorists, the Ministry of Transportation should on an urgent basis equip airports in the Northern Caucasus with additional technical gear to examine passengers and their baggage.

The federal authorities have decided to draft and submit for State Duma consideration new articles of the Russian Federation Criminal Code increasing the terms of imprisonment for carriers of arms, ammunition, and explosives.

'Threatening Report' of Bomb in Moscow Said False

LD1011184095 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces were put on heightened alert in the center of Moscow today, and the militia cordoned off the administrative buildings on Staraya Square. An unknown man had telephoned to say that a bomb had been planted in one of the buildings.

To judge from the latest reports, the threatening report was disinformation, army engineers found no bomb. True, some sources assert that a suspicious object was indeed found, but be that as it may, the presidential administration staff had several tense hours of waiting. A report from the scene.

[Unidentified correspondent, over video of Staraya Square, militia cordons] The last day of the working week turned out to be a holiday for staff of Moscow regional administration. They were all evacuated from their building on Staraya Square about 1100 this morning.

The evacuation of the staff began immediately after the president's main security service was telephoned by an unknown man who said that a very powerful explosive device had been planted at No. 6 Staraya Square. This building is one of a series of buildings that also houses the presidential administration. The search operation was therefore carried out by the Main Administration for the Protection of the Russian Federation.

Everyone was quickly evacuated from the building where the explosive device was supposed to be, and from a number of neighboring buildings as well. Mine specialists started to hunt for the bomb. The search went

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on for several hours, since the numerous premises in the complex of administrative buildings had to be checked. Given the importance of the premises, the work was done particularly painstakingly, and in an atmosphere of secrecy.

Protection administration experts in the buildings refused to say anything. This may be why contradictory reports emerged during the course of the day about the results of the search. There was one report that an explosive device had been found and disarmed. However, as we were told at the press service of the Main Administration for the Protection of the Russian Federation, it was a false alarm and there was no bomb.

However, the topmost Russian leadership seems to be taking serious measures in response to the constant threat of acts of terrorism and explosions. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS reports that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has issued a special order on new measures to stop weapons and munitions being brought into the capital illegally.

Police Deny Presidential Staff Evacuated

LD1011121695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — At about noon on Friday, an identified telephone caller told police that an explosive device was planted in one of the buildings belonging to the Presidential administration compound on Staraya Ploshchad (Old Square).

No bomb has been found in an ensuring inspection of the building, sources at the Federal Security Service (FSS) [FSB], which was immediately notified about the anonymous telephone call, have told ITAR-TASS.

An FSS source has denied media reports about an evacuation of the personnel of the Presidential administration.

Official Hails Yeltsin's Central Bank Appointment

LD1011174695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — President of the Russian Banking Association (RBA) Sergey Yegorov approved of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to relieve Tatyana Paramonova of her post and appoint Aleksandr Khandruyev as acting chairman of the Central Bank.

"I believe that the president has made the right step," Yegorov said in an interview with INTERFAX on Friday. "The banking system is tired of the fact that the Central Bank has had no leader for almost one year."

The RBA president described Khandruyev as a man "who is not alien to the banking system and as a good banker." "Now he has been given a chance to show his worth not solely as a good banker but also as a good politician, organizer and administrator," he said.

According to Yegorov, the Association expects Khandruyev to take measures to strengthen the banking system. Among these are measures to reduce deductions on obligatory reserves, a resolution for the Central Bank to play a more active role on the market of short-term credits, as well as a decision to back banks which are in temporary financial difficulty.

If under Khandruyev there are positive changes in the Central Bank's policy in these matters, the Association could hail his possible nomination to the post of the Central Bank's chairman, said Yegorov.

Vice Chairman 'Upset' by Removal

LD0911154695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — The Central Bank's Deputy Chairman Andrey Kozlov told an international conference on the Russian stock market in Moscow Thursday that he was upset by the removal of Tatyana Paramonova from the post of the Central Bank's acting leader.

"I'm upset and surprised by the decision, because Paramonova's competence and professional skills arouse no doubts," he said. "As Central Bank leader she ranks among the world's top five bankers," he added.

He also said he had no plans to resign, because the Central Bank's top team remained practically unchanged.

The Russian president's press service announced on November 8 that the president had removed Paramonova from the post of the Central Bank's acting leader. He appointed Aleksandr Khandruyev, the Central Bank's first deputy chairman, to the post of acting leader of the Central Bank.

Law Enforcement Detains Suspect in Kivilidi Murder

LD0911174695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 9 (ITAR-TASS) — A man suspected of assassinating

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president of Russia's Business Round Table Ivan Kivilidi has been detained by law enforcement bodies.

Investigators conducting an inquest into Kivilidi's death told ITAR-TASS today that they were 100 per cent sure that the suspect was the very man who had ordered or even committed the murder. The suspect is reported to be one of Kivilidi's bank business partners.

The investigators established that shortly before the assassination Kivilidi said that he was dissatisfied with the co-founders of his bank, describing them as a "stick in his throat." One of Kivilidi's friends had suggested that Kivilidi should get rid of the unwanted partners by sharply raising their share in the charter capital.

The proposal obviously did not please Kivilidi's partners. They decided to remove Kivilidi from the scene by methods which can hardly be chosen at random. If Kivilidi had been merely shot dead in the entrance to his house, his bank accounts would have been arrested and his companions would have lost all. Therefore, Kivlidi's rivals decided to administer poison reportedly containing phosphorus. However, the plotters did not expect his secretary to be poisoned by the stuff as well. Apparently, Kivilidi's killers had hoped for his quiet death attributed to natural causes which chemical experts involved in the crime might have guaranteed.

The investigators and detectives investigating the crime obtained another evidence which confirmed their suspicions. A day before the tragedy occurred the suspect had been in Kivilidi's office alone and might have administered poison in Kivilidi's telephone receiver. Besides, shortly before Kivilidi's death the suspect had made cautions inquiries about Kivilidi's condition at the Toxicology Department of the Sklifosofskiy Ambulance Hospital in Moscow.

The investigation into Kivilidi' murder continues. However, the investigators have confronted strong resistance from forces defending the suspect who hired "expensive" lawyers to defend the suspect. It remains to be seen whether the investigation will be able to stand the pressure and bring the culprit to justice.

New Prosecutor General Holds News Conference

LD1011213795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Nov 95

[Report over video by correspondent Ye. Guretskaya on news conference by Prosecutor General Yuriy Skuratov; from the "Vesti" newscast — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Skuratov] The new prosecutor general met journalists for the first time since his appointment. Editors in chief of various media were there.

[Skuratov] "I am telling you openly the decision to have this meeting was not made without apprehension."

[Guretskaya] Not surprisingly, he has been in the post less than two weeks. Yet he has already presented his first serious document to the court — the draft for the federal program 'On mutual interaction between the law enforcement bodies and the media.' The prosecutor general takes a sober view of the situation in the country.

[Skuratov] "People are afraid to turn to the law enforcement bodies. They do not feel that they can get any protection from the authorities."

[Guretskaya] But he looks on the law enforcement system itself with optimism.

[Skuratov] "I assure you that the Russian law enforcement system is on the whole healthy."

[Guretskaya] He thinks that only when it has united, can society eventually awaken, society, which is a passive onlooker to what is going on in the country.

[Skuratov] "The fundamental idea, which is stipulated in this program, is active cooperation between the law enforcement bodies and the media."

[Guretskaya] An interesting fact: Only Russian Public Television, ORT, out of all the media, has been asked to work on the legislation to put into effect this program. After the prosecutor general's opening speech, journalists, invited to cover this meeting, were asked to leave.

Stepashin To Head Staff Administration Department

LD1011121395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Ex-director of the Russian Federal Security Service Sergey Stepashin, 43, has been nominated head of the Government Staff's Administrative Department on the instruction of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

A high-ranking official from the Government Staff told INTERFAX that the department is supervising the Federal Security Service, the Interior, Defense and Justice Ministries and court bodies.

However, the Russian legislation does not give it any coordinating or administrative functions. The only powers of the department is expert estimation and analysis of documents submitted by the "power" bodies

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to the cabinet, and preparation of documents on defense and public order for government meetings.

The department has plenty of work on the law-enforcement bodies. "There are a lot of documents related to the Interior Ministry," said the official. In his words, the nomination of Stepashin as the department head does not mean that the government structure wili have a larger significance.

The decision to nominate Stepashin has just been taken and the instruction of the Prime Minister has not been received by Staff members. Stepashin has not been officially introduced to staffers of the department, who have abstained from any comments on their new head and possible changes in the department work.

Stepashin was dismissed from the post of the Federal Security Service Director last summer following the tragic developments in the town of Budennovsk, attacked by Chechen terrorists of Shamil Basayev.

Military Issues

Yeltsin, Grachev Discuss Ministry Stand on Bosnia

LD1011143895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin met Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Friday to approve actions of the Defence Ministry in working out Russia's stand on the Bosnian settlement.

The president suggested that the Defence Ministry, together with the Russian Foreign Ministry and a number of other structures, work out the common approach to political control over the peacekeeping operation of the multinational forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The defence minister gave to the president a detailed account of the results of the talks with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry in Brussels, presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS.

The president approved of the proposal of the Defence Ministry and the Foreign Ministry to hold interstate consultations on the transfer of functions of the Russian contingent of peacekeeping troops to a number of units of the operational group of Russian forces stationed in the Dniester area (Moldova), Medvedev said.

Grachev: Yeltsin in Control of Armed Forces

LD1011190095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin is in good condition, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev declared in Moscow after his meeting with the president in the Central Clinical Hospital on Friday [10 November].

Yeltsin "is able to work and is in control of the situation in the country, including the armed forces," Grachev said, adding that Yeltsin continues "to work hard".

He reported that his discussion with the president lasted about 90 minutes. "Speculations that Yeltsin's illness poses danger are untrue." Grachev said. However, he added, doctors insist on a longer rehabilitation period for the president.

Grachev briefed Yeltsin about the results of his talks with Pentagon chief William Perry in Brussels.

The Russian Defense Minister plans to speak at a NATO Council session on November 28th in Brussels, to which Perry invited him. According to Grachev, he agreed with Yeltsin to meet in advance of his trip to Brussels to discuss the main points of the speech the defence minister was going to make. This new meeting with the president is scheduled for noon November 23rd.

Yeltsin and Grachev also examined the state of Russian armed forces and compliance with the president's decree on the reduction of Russian troops.

In keeping with the decree, the armed forces are to comprise 1.7 million troops by January 1st 1996. However, the numerical strength will be a bit lower, making up 1.55-1.6 million. The president, Grachev said, "endorsed these figures and asked me to explore the possibility of cutting the Russian army further during 1996."

The problem of Chechnya and actions by federal troops in that republic were also discussed at the meeting with the President.

"Yeltsin stressed the need for giving priority to a peaceful solution to this question, noting that the shelling of our troops must not pass unnoticed. The president instructed me to adopt measures to protect federal troops and avoid casualties," Grachev said.

He stressed that the federal forces in Chechnya remained under the command of Interior Minister, General Anatoliy Kulikov.

Grachev believes that upon completion of his medical treatment, the president will fly to China. Yeltsin's visit

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to Beijing was postponed due to his illness. "He gave me instructions in connection with his trip to China where a number of documents are to be signed," Grachev said.

Yeltsin Orders Reserve Fund for Far East Military

LD1011193495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — As a result of the natural calamity, the forces deployed in the Far East have been inflicted with over 30 billion rubles [R] worth of damage. The data from the commanders of the Far Eastern military district and the Pacific Fleet suggests that the military's losses from the calamity have now mounted to an estimated R12 billion for the Pacific Fleet and R23 billion for the Far Eastern military district, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists today.

The minister raised this subject at today's meeting with the Russian president. The president instructed his defense minister to draft a government instruction on additional allocations from the state budget to repairing the damage, said Grachev.

Yeltsin Reportedly Orders Riot Units in Armed Forces

MK1011091595 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 45, 9-16 Nov 95 (Signed to press 8 Nov 95) p 1

[Report by Aleksey Overchuk: "President Surrounded by a Triple Ring"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As soon as the president found himself hooked up to an IV, journalists fell to guessing in whose hands the great power's nuclear force was. Korzhakov calmed them: Yeltsin has the "suitcase with the button" at hand, not even under his pillow. He is right. A group of military specialists is on round-the-clock duty at the Kremlin Hospital. This is the so-called mobile point of communication with Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces. Korzhakov has no access to them, nor does he have any influence on them.

The nuclear button has been regarded of late as an attribute of absolute power. This is not quite so. [Defense Minister] Grachev, [Prime Minister] Chernomyrdin, and General Staff Chief Kolesnikov are also in possession of such suitcases along with Yeltsin. Should Yeltsin decide to fire a rocket, he would not be able to do so without the consent of the other three "suitcases."

Nor are we threatened with a riot. There is a triple ring of security around the president. Yeltsin is said to have been shocked after the suppression of the October 1993 putsch. Neither the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], nor the FSB [Federal Security Service], nor the Defense Ministry spoke in his defense in those days in October. As for Grachev, he justified himself by saying that the army had no units to crush riots.

Yeltsin corrected the army. Detachments "to fight mass disturbances" were created in the depths of the Armed Forces. As regards Moscow, this secret list allegedly includes the 18th Independent Brigade of the General Staff, an independent motorized rifle brigade in Solnechnogorsk, an independent special-purpose battalion in Kubinka, several detachments in Chuchkovo at the base of the local Main Intelligence Directorate special-purpose troops, and the 305th Independent Airborne Regiment stationed in Matrosskaya Tishina Street. This list may be far from complete.

Grachev: Army To Be 100,000 Men Under Strength

LD1011173895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Friday that in 1996, the Russian army would be at least 100,000 men below authorised strength of 1,700,000. He spoke to the press after today's meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Earlier Yeltsin decreed to cut the number of Russian troops.

On January 1, 1996, the Russian army's actual strength will make up from 1,550,000 to 1,600,000 men, Grachev said adding that the figures were approved by the president on Friday.

In his words, Yeltsin also suggested considering "possible reduction of the Russian Armed Forces actual strength in 1996."

Federal Assembly

100 Deputies Challenge Legality of Electoral Law

AU1011110595 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 10 (AFP) — About 100 Russian deputies have asked the constitutional court to examine the legality of several parts of the electoral law ahead of the December legislative elections, a reformist deputy told AFP Friday [10 November].

Gleb Yakunin said that the deputies had challenged the legality of Article 62 of the electoral law, which includes

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the requirement for parties to get at least five percent of the vote to win seats in parliament.

They also asked the court to rule on a clause stipulating that Russians living outside the country could not vote, he said.

Preparations for the the December 17 poll were also thrown into turmoil Thursday when the Supreme Court ordered the constitutional court to examine the legality of article 62.

The elections to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, are expected to bring victories for nationalist and pro-communist parties opposed to President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital for heart trouble.

Duma Awaits Court's Ruling on 5-Percent Hurdle

MK1111145695 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Ivan Pavlov under the "Parliament" rubric with the general heading: "A New ABC of the Russian Political Alphabet. Forty-two Electoral Associations are Numbered, but the Supreme and Constitutional Courts Could Postpone Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has decided to wait for the Constitutional Court to hand down its ruling on the degree of constitutionality of certain provisions of the Law on Duma Elections. Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told his colleagues yesterday that there were several options for changing the electoral law but that they all had been put on hold for the time being.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent managed to find out that various factions and deputies have drawn up at least three bills on amendments to the Law on State Duma Deputy Elections. One of them, submitted on behalf of the "Russia's Choice" faction, calls for amendments to the articles describing and defining stages of the electoral campaign that have already been left behind. First of all, this concerns trimming the Central Electoral Commission's authority regarding the registration of electoral associations and the authority of the associations themselves in terms of changing their party lists.

Another option for amending the current electoral law was drawn up by deputies Irina Khakamada and Vyacheslav Nikonov. It introduces a second round of elections in single-seat constituencies and in fact abolishes the 5-percent hurdle for elections in an all-Federation district. The latter provision is formulated in the bill in a fairly arcane manner, however. Yet another bill simply calls for the abolition of the 5-percent hurdle by removing the corresponding provision from the current law.

It is probable that by the time the Constitutional Court announces its decision on the constitutionality of the 5-percent clause, still more amendments to the Duma election law will be suggested. It is probable, however, that the ambitious plans for changing the rules of the electoral game while it is being played may prove useless. The Duma's so-called "Group of Three" — the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Agrarian Party of Russia, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia — have already agreed on a common stance whereby all amendments to the electoral legislation should be blocked at the stage of including them on the agenda. Yesterday, the "Russia's Choice" faction suddenly joined the favorites in the electoral campaign.

Yet, such a Duma barrier preventing the abolition of the 5-percent hurdle can work, of course, if the Constitutional Court finds this provision to be fully constitutional. If the Constitutional Court makes a decision to the contrary, however, the Law on Elections will have to be changed.

Duma Adopts Amendments to Privatization Law

LD1011225095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0926 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A new wording of the Law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law 'On Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation,'" agreed with the Federation Council, was today adopted by the State Duma. This wording had earlier been passed by the Duma but thrown out by the Federation Council.

After being worked on by a reconciliation commission consisting of Federal Assembly members, the law was passed in a wording that stipulates, in particular, that the Russian Government should report annually to the Duma on the results of the state privatization program. After debating these results, the Duma can make amendments to the program, the law says.

Rybkin Cited on Duma's Foreign Policy Role

MK1111063395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Nov 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma: "Parliament and Diplomacy. The State Duma and Understanding Russia's Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under Russia's Constitution, pursuing and planning the highest policy is the prerogative of the president. Nevertheless, the Federal Assembly as a whole, and its lower chamber in particular,

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have a telling impact on this process. First, owing to the fact that the parliament is an exponent and champion of the national interests of Russian citizens in the full sense of the word. Second, the Duma passes the state budget, thereby exerting a profound influence on foreign and defense policy. Third, among the deputies, there are enough people whose profession it is to deal with international relations. By no means are we seeking any petty interference and the daily activity connected with it, but by virtue of the very nature of representative power, we cannot shirk participation in discussing strategic priorities.

The president and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are obliged to reckon with the Duma's opinion on all key problems of foreign policy. It is gratifying to us to feel understanding on their part. The president's amended course in relations with the West is much closer to our ideas of what is good for our country than implicit assent to any wish of our partners. This is where our Ministry of Foreign Affairs sinned. At the same time, I would like to point out that plunging from side to side is not characteristic of any parliament, including Russia's State Duma, due to the heterogeneity and diversity of interests represented in it.

True, Minister Kozyrev, being a deputy and on the Duma International Affairs Committee, has been subjected to repeated and harsh criticism, both in the conference hall and in the Duma lobby. However, the main reason behind the criticism was not "the nationalist ways" of the Duma, as the minister not infrequently put it, but the inconsistency and indecisiveness often shown by the Foreign Affairs Ministry itself, which was detrimental to the image of Russia as a serious partner in international relations. There is possibly more pragmatism and realism in the Duma than in certain departments of the Foreign Ministry. We have a notion — if not too detailed, than at least clear to every citizen — of what Russian foreign policy should be like.

The power of the country lies not in its being ready for adventure and not in tending to amaze partners by surprises and large-scale initiatives (this was, for instance, how Mikhail Gorbachev used to sin: The initiatives became more numerous, as the domestic situation deteriorated), but in the ability to carefully proportion its forces and determine its real interests.

France can be cited as a particularly graphic example. That country has an opinion to be reckoned with. While not approving of some of the moves launched by it — for example, the resumption of nuclear tests — we cannot deny the right of France to carry them out nonetheless. The opinion of France is taken into consideration by both its allies and other states, one might say enemies, but France has virtually no enemies, this also being one more indication of its successful foreign policy.

The interests of France are rather broad, but not at all boundless. France is not seeking equal partnership with the United States, for instance, in any region of the globe, but it is rather tough in defending the sphere of its vital interests.

It is also long overdue that we, in place of persistent, almost ritualistic declarations of Russia's great-power status, clearly and publicly determine, first for ourselves, and then for our opponents also, the spheres of priority interest that we will not abandon — if only to enable them to predict our behavior and not to pump up tensions when confronted unexpectedly by Russia's unwillingness to meet them halfway, and not wishing to lose face at that.

It is admittedly harder to pursue a Gorchakov-type [Prince Aleksandr Gorchakov, Russian diplomat of the second half of the 19th century] foreign policy, and to gain your ends when your means are scarce, with virtually no allies to rely on, than to channel the USSR's resources, which seemed to have been unlimited, to accomplish objects on a global scale.

However, sharp minds have not become extinct in Rus [old, folkloric name for Russia]. I believe the parliament will participate more actively in personnel policy, too. Passing ambassadors' candidacies through the crucible of discussion by the International Affairs Committee is very helpful, making it possible to support professionals.

Even people inexperienced in politics understand that you must cut your coat according to your cloth. You cannot strive to determine the sphere of your influence without first mopping up the mess in your own house and establishing partnership relations with neighboring states.

In this connection, one of the priorities of our policy is clearly taking shape — **relations with the CIS countries.** When discussing these issues at State Duma sessions, the cold and austere language of lawmaking is confronted at times by the emotional tension of a political polemic. Nevertheless, we have embarked on a well-planned establishment of durable, friendly, and mutually beneficial relations with the post-Soviet states. Certainly, with those who wish it themselves — we are not going to impose our friendship on anyone. Please, note the huge package of Duma-ratified agreements with the former USSR republics.

The second, no less important direction under intense observation by the Duma concerns **disarmament issues.** I assure you, we most thoroughly monitor sit-

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uations connected both with the Treaty on Reduction of Conventional Forces in Europe and START-II. We cannot help being concerned about the situation with the implementation of plans for NATO expansion to the East, and with the intentions of some of our counterparts from the U.S. Congress to launch processes threatening one of the pillars of the modern arms control regime — the ABM [Antiballistic Missile] Treaty. The Duma regularly holds hearings on these issues. The citizens of Russia can be confident of this: Not a single decision will be made without a most serious analysis of the possible consequences. In case of necessity, we will find an opportunity to exert pressure both on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and on the government at large.

Today a global world conflict has receded rather far into the background of the political arena. Nevertheless, unlike President Reagan, who viewed our European and Asian affairs from his beautiful America afar, we regrettably cannot say that we live in a safer world. Ask Russian (this word is not accepted in the usage of our lovers of voyages to friendly countries, but you try to find another) refugees what their opinion on this matter is. Ask our border guards holding the Tajik border, our former compatriots from Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan now seeking haven in Russia from war and famine. Violent, ambitious, and aggressive nationalism, owing to the efforts of certain shortsighted politicians, regrettably has been let out, like a mythical and mischievous genie from a bottle. It is sowing disaster and suffering among peoples. **Interethnic intolerance, exploitation of the religious factor, and large-scale violations of human rights generate conflicts in Third World countries.** Russia, owing to its geopolitical situation, must worry about this problem more than any other power.

Summing up the preliminary results of our activity in the area of international policy, and not playing up the achievements, I would like to emphasize with satisfaction, however, that it is largely due to the position of the State Duma that Russia's positions in relations with both the economically developed and the developing countries have been firmly defended. The Duma is but a copy of the nation, preserving its merits and drawbacks. All our Russian weak points and drawbacks are reflected in it, and in exaggerated form into the bargain. For all that, closely connected with the people, it has the people's common sense, and the feeling of love for the home country. Just as any normal person cannot but be a patriot, the parliament cannot and must not shirk participation in determining the country's foreign policy course.

Duma Committee Recommends Revision of 1995 Budget

MK1111064395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "This Year's Budget Will Be Revised. Expenditures on the Army, Police, and Chechnya Will Substantially Exceed Those Planned Earlier"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Budget Committee members decided virtually unanimously and without discussion to recommend to the State Duma to adopt the law "On Making Changes in the Federal Law 'On the 1995 Federal Budget'" in its first reading. According to the preamble, changes in the 1995 budget are being made owing to changes in socioeconomic development forecasts and in accordance with the law on raising minimum wages. It is planned to increase federal budget revenues by 40.7 trillion rubles [R] mainly with tax revenues (which have increased because the actual inflation level exceeded those assumed in the budget); to reduce the budget deficit by R12.8 trillion; and to increase budget expenditures by R27.9 trillion, primarily to compensate for the expenditures of the Pension Fund, the needs of defense and law enforcement agencies, and to rebuild Chechnya.

It is planned to direct R6.1 trillion to compensate the Pension Fund for pensions and allowances that are to be financed from the federal budget; another R0.55 trillion is envisioned in compensation to persons who have suffered from the Chechen conflict. Moreover, expenditures for Chechnya are earmarked in a "sundry expenditures" article in the amount of R5.65 trillion. Law enforcement agencies will additionally get R2.9 trillion, and defense expenditures will grow by R6.8 trillion. Science and fundamental research projects, under Article 60 of the 1995 budget law, a priority area for additional revenues, will grow by a mere R533.6 billion.

The Budget Committee conclusion on the draft law highlights the need to bring it in line with the functional breakdown [funktsionalnaya klassifikatsiya] of the 1995 budget law, reducing Chechnya expenditures to R3 trillion and increasing expenditures for the Financial Support Fund for Russian Federation components.

Duma's Piskunov Cited on Defense Budget

MM1011142995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 3

[Aleksandr Yermolin report of interview with Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for Defense: "Conciliation Commission Agrees to

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Financial Asphyxiation of Army Like Last Year. State Duma Defense Committee Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Piskunov Tells Our Correspondent About the Results of Its Work"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let me remind you that the Conciliation Commission was set up after the Duma rejected the draft 1996 budget on the first reading. In this draft the government proposed, inter alia, limiting defense spending to 78 trillion rubles [R] and next year's level of inflation was "set" at 1.2 percent [per month]. The Defense Ministry, on the basis of minimum requirements, requested R134 trillion and sensible economists called the government forecast regarding the level of inflation a pipedream; to be realistic, this figure will hardly dip below 3 percent. Correspondingly, it is quite obvious that the Conciliation Commission's first subject of discussion should have been two figures — defense spending and the inflation figure.

"As soon as the commission began its work, a whole series of its members, State Duma and Federation Council deputies, proposed coordinating defense spending," Aleksandr Piskunov said. "Regrettably, the government viewpoint prevailed — namely only the parameters of budget expenditure and revenue, and the deficit were agreed. The result was that, as happened last year, the revenue section was augmented by the budget deficit figure that we were allowed by the IMF. Within these parameters the Army is being asked to 'share out' the budget pie with the agrarians, science, education, etc."

That is, "everything is like the old days" and the Duma is being asked to tackle its usual job of squeezing blood out of a stone. The Conciliation Commission certainly found additional revenue by collecting taxes industriously and increasing excise duties on oil and gas.... The total budget top-up will stretch to R30 trillion. Our parliamentarians will evidently start clawing at that money, with particular diligence, moreover, since the elections are near at hand and no one will miss an opportunity to "get noticed" by their voters. We would point out for ourselves that the Army needs R56 trillion more to survive than the government has lavished on it. The Committee for Defense is proposing to raise defense spending to R110 trillion. Once again the required figure is just over R30 trillion more than it has proved possible to "extort." No matter what you do, there is no way out. No defense problems are being resolved.

Aleksandr Piskunov, addressing members of the Conciliation Commission, told each and everyone with figures in hand that, on the basis of real expenditure in 1995, the proposed level of defense spending in 1996 is R32 trillion lower than this year's level. The statesmen were told bluntly: "The crisis in the provisioning of the Armed Forces has reached the limit and the loss of control in the country must not be allowed." None of the deputy's facts, figures, or rhetoric made any impression on most of the "Conciliation Commission members." An appeal was sent to the Commission on the initiative of the "Russia" deputies group, which was backed by a number of parliamentarians. It said in black and white: "The country is on the verge of losing all defense production and army combat capability. Spending on arms procurement and defense research and development is no more than 5-10 percent of the required level.... We consider it extremely urgent for the 1996 budget to prescribe spending on arms production and procurement of at least R30 trillion and at least R12 trillion on defense research and development.... This is a problem of national survival." Another voice in the wilderness.

The government side was slightly persuaded to bring the proposed level of inflation closer to a realistic level. Piskunov suggested 3 percent. The figure of 1.9 percent was what was agreed. And this figure was accepted after dithering over whether the loan provider — the IMF — would become angry. There was also an outcry over the budget deficit: By international standards, they could have included a deficit of at least 5 percent in the budget, but they played safe and confined themselves to 3.85 percent. Once again in the hope of pleasing the all-powerful IMF.

What is the result? The same again, financial asphyxiation of national defense.

"The Armed Forces exist to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Aleksandr Piskunov commented, "but what kind of sovereignty can there be when key state decisions on the budget depend entirely on a foreign structure. No matter how you look at it, over the last few years defense spending has been the same as the budget deficit. And the budget deficit was and is set by the IMF."

What can the Russian Armed Forces count on in these circumstances? Kindness from the IMF. It seems that one can no longer count on statesmen's commonsense and responsibility to their country. All of us, primarily Russian military men, must shed our illusions — the Russian Army should not expect fundamental aid from anyone or anywhere. The government view is that the military threatened in 1995 that they would not survive with that budget, but they did survive and so they will also survive in 1996. And they are quietly continuing to go through the Army's pockets and rake out every last thing. And that includes pillaging those who are doing their military duty in Chechnya.

On Friday the State Duma is to begin examining the draft federal budget for 1996. The turn of the defense

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sections will only come on the second reading. That is in line with standing orders. But in real life you can be in no doubt that the Armed Forces will themselves be asked to resolve their own problems.

Shumeyko Explains Rejection of Production-Sharing Law

LD1011231195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The Law "On Production-Sharing Agreements" was thrown out by the Federation Council "not in its entirety but because of disagreement with specific parts, and a bilateral reconciliation commission is now working on it," Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko told a news conference. He raised this issue because of the number of enquiries received by the upper chamber. Also, the subject often arises in talks with ambassadors of countries with an interest in resolving investment problems in surveying for and extracting mineral resources in Russia, which is mentioned in the law.

Shumeyko stressed that the Federation Council, as the "house of the regions," is also interested in getting such a law passed, "not as a one-day wonder but in a form that takes into account Russia's strategic needs." The document submitted by the State Duma gives only "short-term gains." Not only that, the speaker stressed, but "it runs counter to the Constitution and the law on subterranean resources, and will require changes to tax legislation."

As soon as the reconciliation commission is finished with the law, the Federation Council will pass it and forward it to the president for signing, Shumeyko said. He expressed regret that "the regulatory and legislative framework for solving such issues is not based on an economic model for development, which is still lacking in this country." The speaker added that international agreements are not infrequently signed "without regard for the interests of Russian citizens."

Legislative, Regulatory Documents 29 Oct - 4 Nov

96P50015

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications. SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 18 September Government Decree No. 923 On Investment Tax Credit For Enterprises Sited In Kamchatka Oblast In Context Of Contract For Purchase Of Japanese Ships Which Is In Danger Of Defaulting, Accompanied By Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1) (350/300)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 19 September Government Directive No. 1314-r On Privatization Of 'Transammiak' Ammonia-Producing Enterprise And Government Purchase Of Special Issue Of Shares In 'Tolyattiazot' Joint-Stock Company, With Commentary By State Property Fund Industry Administration Chief Andreyev On Need For Talks With Ukraine On Ammonia Pipeline Which Crosses That Republic. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (300/400)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 9 October Government Directive No. 1389-r On Simplification Of Accounting And Bookkeeping Procedure For Small Businesses, Accompanied By Commentary From State Statistics Committee Chairman Yurkov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (100/300)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1390 Approving Proposal That Moscow Nonferrous Metals Research Institute Should Not Be Privatized. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3) (250)

Yeltsin 11 October Directive No. 452-rp On Altering Composition Of Working Group Preparing Legislation On Taxation System, With Accompanying List Of Working Group Members. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3 (80/900)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 12 October Decree No. 1001 On Amendments To List Of Types Of Activity Requiring Licenses And Bodies Empowered To Conduct Licensing Activity. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (150)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 12 October Decree No. 1002 On Amendments And Additions To Government Decree No. 758 of 1 July 1994 On Measures To Improve State Regulation of Export Of Goods And Services. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (250)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 13 October Government Decree No. 1008 On Change In Rates Of Excise Duties For Certain Types Of Commodities Imported Into Russia, With Accompanying List of Excise Tariffs. (Moscow

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ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 4) (200/1000)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 13 October Government Decree No. 1020 On Introducing Temporary Procedure For Utilizing Monetary Resources Entering Current Accounts Of Enterprises And Organizations (For Purposes Of Implementing 20 August Government Decree On RF's Socioeconomic Development In First Half Of 1995 And Measures To Implement Economic Reform In 1995.) (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 4) (1250)

Government 13 October Directive No. 1421 Concerning Financial Provision For Social Protection Of Persons Affected By Radiation From Semipalatinsk Weapons Testing. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3) (150)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 13 October Government Directive No. 1422 On Appropriations For Processing And Storing Low- And Medium-Level Radioactive Waste In Moscow Region, Accompanied By Commentary By Sobolev, Director Of Parent Enterprise For Processing Radioactive Waste Of Moscow Science And Production Association 'Radon.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1) (150/300) (Text)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 13 October Government Directive No. 1426 On Privatization Of Uralmash Heavy Machine-Building Plant, Accompanied By Commentary By Sverdlovsk Property Fund Chairman Sergeyev. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (350) (Text)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 24 October Government Directive No. 1476-r On Holding All-Russia Wholesale Fair For Food Industry Commodities In Moscow In January 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (200)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 13 October Decree No. 1007 On Sending German Side Note On Russian Government's Agreement To Distribution Of Appropriations Allocated By FRG Government For Destruction Of Chemical Weapons In Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3) (250)

Yeltsin 19 October Directive No. 468-rp Approving Plan Of Work With Presidential Council On Affairs Of Cossacks. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3) (120)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 19 October Government Directive No. 1438-r On Arrangements For State Customs Committee And Federal Border Service To Allow Special Equipment And Servicemen To Leave The Country To Take Part In Joint Exercises With Americans At Fort Riley, Accompanied By List Of Special Equipment. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (350) (Text)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 20 October Government Decree No. 1023 On Interim Coordination Organs On Territory Of Chechen Republic, Accompanied By Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 4) (450/250) (Text)

SECTION III: SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

Chernomyrdin-Signed 26 September Government Decree On State Support For RF's Leading Science Schools, With Comments By Two Academicians Involved In Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 4) (400/750)

Government 12 October Decree No. 998 On State Support For Creation Of Energy-Efficient Demonstration Zones In Russian Federation, With Comment By V. Dobrokhotov Of Ministry Of Science And Technical Policy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3) (350/500)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 13 October Government Decree No. 1012 On Confirming List Of Those Specialized Organizations Producing Medical And Veterinary Immunobiological Compounds Intended For Combating Epidemics And Epizotic Diseases Which Have Been Exempted From Property Tax, Accompanied By List Of Said Organizations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3) (100/800)

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Negotiations, Military, Politics

Dudayev Chairs Defense Council Meeting

MK1111145195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report: "Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint private meeting of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria State Defense Council and military and regional commissars chaired by Dzhokhar Dudayev was held in Urus-Martan early in November. It discussed directives of the results of the 1994-1995 war, preparation for the winter military campaign, the implementation of corresponding measures, and a number of other questions of state importance. A secret program of activities of Chechen Republic of Ichkeria leaders in wartime conditions was adopted.

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International Cease-Fire Supervision Demanded

LD1011131895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 10 November (ITAR-TASS) — The resumption of talks with Moscow representatives "is only possible given firm guarantees of a halt in warfare under international supervision," Movlen Salamov, Dzhokhar Dudayev's aide, told ITAR-TASS today.

Asked what was the Dudayev entourage's attitude toward Ruslan Khasbulatov's idea to continue negotiations in Moscow, Movlen Salamov said that "it would be most preferable if they were to be held on the territory of a neutral state."

He added that the participation in the talks of representatives of the National Rebirth Government "was absolutely out of the question, as it in no way reflects the interests of the Chechen people."

As to amnesty for Dudayev, wanted by the Russian Federation's law enforcement agencies, Movlen Salamov said that the Chechen leader "does not need any legalization or pardon in order to take part in negotiations."

Chechens Make International Help Appeal

LD1011120995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Chechen rebels on Friday accused Russian troops of "the most brutal uncontrolled violence... In the form of murder, mockery, plunder and robbery" and appealed to the international community for help.

A statement signed by the top Chechen delegate to negotiations with the Russian government, Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, appealed to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the United Nations "to take urgent measures to ensure that the right of the individual to live is observed on the territory of the Chechen Republic — Ichkeria."

The statement demanded that the Russian side "immediately implement the earlier agreement under which persons who are forcibly being held are to be exchanged on the basis of the 'everyone for everyone' principle."

This "by no means" cancels the Chechen demands for resuming talks and the work of a special commission appointed to monitor a July 30 military accord, but the agreement cannot be put into reality without international guarantors, the document said.

On Friday Russian and Chechen officials reconvened in the regional capital Groznyy to discuss the technical aspects of exchanging 14 Russian prisoners held by the rebels for 145 people held by the Russians.

Chechens Refuse To Sign Shakhray's Treaty

LD1011191395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — The Dudayev side's chief negotiator on settlement in Chechnya Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov has criticized the participation of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray in the drafting of the treaty on power sharing between Russia and Chechnya.

"Shakhray is so far from the republic's problems that his intention to resolve the problems of Chechnya while in the shadow of Moscow offices can only do harm," Yarikhanov told INTERFAX in an interview today.

"Shakhray long ago discredited himself in Chechnya as a politician," Yarikhanov said.

"The Chechen people have taken all powers they need themselves. It (the Chechen people — IF) will not question Shakhray on this issue," Yarikhanov said with regard to division of powers between Russia and Chechnya.

"Were it not for Shakhray, we would have signed such a treaty as early as four years ago," Yarikhanov said.

"The Dudayev side will not sign Shakhray's version of the treaty," Yarikhanov said.

Zavgayev Meets 'Close' Dudayev Aide

LD1111175095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 11 (INTERFAX) — Chechen Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev met with a close Dudayev aide in Groznyy to discuss settlement in the republic, Chechen Government Spokesman Ruslan Martagov told INTERFAX Saturday.

He said that the meeting initiated by Zavgayev was not held in the government building.

Chechen leaders and Dudayev supporters "lacked room for political maneuver" until Zavgayev said an internal Chechen dialogue is necessary to resolve the conflict in Chechnya, said Martagov.

Zavgayev still proceeds from the assumption that a Chechen autonomy must be based on the Russian Constitution and Russian laws, said the government spokesman.

Martagov also said that meeting with representatives of the federal troops command in Chechnya on November

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10, Zavgayev reiterated his adherence to the policy of "popular consolidation behind the legal authorities of the republic."

According to Martagov, such a policy "will allow to disarm the population without recurring to the use of force." The federal troops representatives were satisfied with Zavgayev's position, he said.

Zavgayev also met with pro-Dudayev field commanders in Groznyy last week.

Zavgayev Meeting Denied

LD1311105995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0936 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, head of the Dudayev delegation at the talks in Groznyy, refuted today reports that Doku Zavgayev, head of the government of the Chechen Republic, supposedly met with representatives from Dzhokhar Dudayev's close circles. "Not a single person from the present circles of Dzhokhar Dudayev met with Doku Zavgayev and the situation in Chechnya was not discussed," Yarikhanov said today in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Moreover, he stressed, we have not even received a proposal on such a meeting".

At the same time, the head of the Dudayev delegation proposed that Doku Zavgayev "may meet with anyone who worked in the government of Dzhokhar Dudayev."

On 11 November, the press service of Doku Zavgayev said that the head of the government met with "representatives of Dudayev's close circles." The representative of the press service refused to specifically name those who met with Zavgayev and also refused to give details of the meeting only saying that it discussed "the situation in the republic." The representative of the press service also clarified that the meeting took place "outside the government building."

Shkirko Assesses Chechen Situation

LD1311092695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0246 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Nov 12 (INTERFAX) — The Federal Troops Command in Chechnya "does not see any tactical or strategic sense in seizing Bamut," Federal Troops Commander and co-chairman of the Special Observer Commission, Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Shkirko told journalists in Groznyy Sunday.

"We shall seize Bamut if any need to do so arises," he said.

He also said that the federal troops' positions near Bamut and Orekhovo (the western part of Chechnya) have been shelled from mortars and grenade-launchers, and with anti-tank guided missiles over the past few months.

They came under fire three times during the past 24 hours. "We have rebuffed the attacks killing 15 militants. Our troops have sustained no losses," said Shkirko.

He said he did not think Dzhokhar Dudayev fully controlled his troops.

"According to our sources, disagreements are growing in the Dudayev troops over payment and tactical questions," he went on to say.

He announced that efforts are being made to find Dudayev and field commander Shamil Basayev. "Results will be there," he said.

He also expressed hope that "the Special Observer Commission's work to have the military agreements implemented will be resumed."

He pointed out at the same time that he would not sit down at the negotiating table with the Commission's Chechen co-chairman, Chechen rebel commander Aslan Maskhadov "as long as the fate of Lieutenant-Colonel Nikolay Maksimenkov and private Roman Morozov remains unknown."

As reported earlier, these two Russian servicemen have been considered missing since October 22 when they were sent to the Roshni-Chu district in the Urus-Martan region to ensure the security of Maskhadov's passing through the federal positions. In his turn, Maskhadov guaranteed the Russian servicemen's security in the territory controlled by the Dudayev formations.

Shkirko believes that "the federal troops will be better provided for this winter than last year." "The personnel have warm clothes and their bases are properly heated," he said.

The situation in the Chechen capital of Groznyy is under control, Shkirko told journalists in Groznyy Sunday.

Asked to comment on the rumors that the rebels are preparing to storm Groznyy, he answered briefly: "Let them try."

"We keep expanding joint policing the streets of Groznyy together with the Interior Ministry of Chechnya," he added.

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Most attacks in the city are designed to psychologically bother federal troops and are carried out from remote sites, he said. Though, there are more intensive attempts to advance to the federal positions in Groznyy, he added.

Shkirko said the crime situation in Groznyy remains complicated as people are being murdered, including civilians.

Further Shkirko Comments

LD1211160095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1143 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kharchenko and Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, 12 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "We are controlling the situation in Groznyy," Lieutenant General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint federal forces in Chechnya, told journalists today. Federal troops continue to be fired on, today 23 times, he said.

Criminal activity is still prevalent in the Chechen capital — there are murders every day, including of civilians, said the commander. In particular, people from Rostov restoring electricity in Groznyy were fired upon on 12 November. Fire was opened from a window in a kindergarten and as a result one person was killed and one injured.

Accordingly, joint patrols of federal forces soldiers and workers from the Chechen internal affairs ministry are being increased. "Seventy-two people were on patrol last night in the city," said the general. "Around 40 cars and nearly 70 citizens were searched and five weapons were seized. Crime no longer goes unpunished, members of established gangs in Groznyy are detained. These are thugs who have no nationality or any other identification except as criminals."

Federal forces are constantly under fire at present in the Bamut and Orekhovo areas, said Anatoliy Shkirko. This was the case in August, September, and October. Moreover, Dudayev's men have mortars, anti-tank grenades, guided missiles, guns including large-calibres. Federal forces came under fire three times from Bamut and Orekhovo areas. The federal forces did not suffer any losses when they hit 15 fighters with return fire.

Shkirko on Continuing Efforts To Free Troops

LD1211135895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko and Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "We shall not stop our efforts to free our guys from the hands of the illegal armed formations," Lieutenant General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya, told a group of journalists.

The commander explained the situation thus: "There was an accord between General Anatoliy Romanov and Aslan Maskhadov about the exchange of 14 Russian servicemen for 145 Chechens. We are now completing checking the lists of the so-called forcibly held persons, because some of those on these lists are ordinary criminals, detained for specific crimes in Stavropol Region and other Russian regions. Of course, this does not concern those detained during the combat operations in Chechnya and whose exchange is at issue. Under an oral agreement, it was specified that any criminals on the lists will not be subject to any exchange."

Asked whether the work of the Special Observer Commission will be resumed in full, General Anatoliy Shkirko said: "I hope so, but this depends to a great extent on the opposite side. As long as the fate of Lieutenant Colonel Maksimenko and Private Moroz remains between me and Mashkhadov — and the responsibility for their safety lies in particular with Mashkhadov, because they went missing when accompanying Maskhadov from Groznyy to Roshni-Chu and did not return — I will not sit down at the negotiating table. At the same time, working contacts are continuing and pressing questions are being discussed."

As to whether the militants are under Dudayev's control, the commander noted the existence among them "of differences over various matters, including payment, everyday problems, and tactics for further operations by the illegal armed formations."

Winter is beginning in Chechnya. Snow has already fallen in Groznyy. Winter is bringing certain difficulties for our troops. However General Shkirko expressed the view that the federal forces will find the present winter easier to bear than last winter. People have warm clothing, and the equipment needed for normal living conditions is present in the positions of the subunits: no one will freeze. The first frosts have confirmed this.

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'All for All' POW Agreement Reached

LD1211212695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Nov 95

[Video report by unidentified correspondent from the "SEGODNYA" newscast; passages contained within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Despite the fact that the work of the Special Observer Commission has been suspended at present, the sides are trying to continue normal working procedures and reach agreement on the exchange of POWs.

[Kazbek Makashev, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Ichkeria, identified by caption] "We reached agreement yesterday. Despite the fact that the Special Monitoring Commission is not working, we agreed to begin implementing the bloc of agreements on the exchange of POWs on the principle of all for all. Naturally, that list must be checked to ensure that it does not contain the names of those who were detained for crimes."

[Correspondent] The main stumbling block, giving rise to many quarrels and disputes, is the list of those who have been forcibly detained. In particular, the Russian side thinks that the militants have not yet given an exhaustive reply to the question of how many POWs they have. Therefore, it is not ruled out that the first exchange may not seem equal — roughly 14 servicemen of the Russian army for 145 Chechens — that is, according to the principle of all for all, as written in the peace settlement agreement.

Major General Viktor Vlasenkov, deputy commander of the joint group of Russian forces in Chechnya, once again met representatives of the villagers of Avtury and Kurchaloy where many-thousand-strong rallies have been held daily for several days now.

[First unidentified man] "Not a single person from the power structures that Moscow has imposed upon us, not a single one of them has appeared at that rally and will not appear there because they do not have a social base of support among the local population."

[Correspondent] The general promised two days ago to reply to the demands of the demonstrators for the withdrawal of the motorized rifle regiment of the Russian army that is deployed here. It was said during the meeting that there can be no talk of the withdrawal or redeployment of the unit, in the first instance, because the work on the implementation of the military bloc of questions of the peace settlement has been suspended. Moreover, the military stress that this is the fault of the Chechen side, which is delaying in every way the disarmament process.

[Viktor Vlasenkov, deputy commander of joint group of forces of Russian troops in Chechnya, identified by caption] "Who specifically is carrying out these armed actions against servicemen, against military hardware, against transport?"

[Second unidentified man, back to camera] "Remember that whoever is carrying out provocations today is the enemy of the Chechen people. These are the people who really have an interest in ensuring that there is no withdrawal of troops from Chechen territory."

[Correspondent] Therefore, it is most likely that the confrontation will be preserved here for a long time and that means that nobody can guarantee that there will not be new fatalities here soon, both among the peaceful inhabitants and federal soldiers.

'Secret' Meeting Held on Combat Tactics

MK1011123495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Mekhman Gafarly under the "Chechnya" rubric: "Field Commanders Step Up Activity. They Held Secret Meeting Yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some field commanders of illegal armed formations held a secret meeting in a district of Chechnya to devise tactics for continuing combat operations against federal troops and the local executive authorities. So far the negotiating process has brought nothing but a heightening of tensions in Chechnya. According to Chechen Internal Affairs Minister Khamid Inalov, after the talks started, Dudayev's followers in Chechnya, particularly in Groznyy, began committing blatant outrages, and the number of registered crimes doubled. Yet another confirmation of the Dudayev fighters' stepped up activity was their firing at the federal troops' positions, in which one serviceman was killed and four others wounded.

Recently the attitude to the negotiating process itself has also changed. For instance, Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, has proposed that the talks between Russian and Chechen representatives be moved from Groznyy to Moscow. However, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Russian delegation in the talks on settling the Chechen crisis said, commenting on the situation, that he does not see any need to move the talks outside Chechnya, because the federal authorities are not holding bilateral talks with the Dudayevites on a political settlement of the crisis.

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Khasbulatov Says Hostilities May Restart

LD1011191295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Former Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that preparations for new large-scale combat activities are currently under way in Chechnya.

Khasbulatov read a statement at an INTERFAX news conference in Moscow Friday saying that the situation in Chechnya is getting closer and closer to a new war.

Clashes between conflicting sides continue day and night and are often instigated by federal forces, Khasbulatov said.

"I have the impression that preparations are being made for new large-scale punitive military actions," said Khasbulatov.

However, he said there is a good chance the crisis will be resolved by peaceful means, "and it depends only on the federal authorities. That is why if we get another war and more casualties, all the blame for such an outcome will fall on federal authorities," said Khasbulatov.

He suggested that the conflicting sides "immediately begin consultations on the organization of talks to sign an agreement that would define the degree of Chechen sovereignty."

"Taking into consideration the fact that Russian President Boris Yeltsin proclaimed himself the guarantor of peaceful resolution of the conflict — and in reality we are witnessing attempts to undermine these peaceful efforts — it would be very useful if a political declaration ruling out punitive military actions in the future was adopted," said Khasbulatov.

He believes that the Chechen side in the conflict could also sign such a declaration, and that the signing could take place before the beginning of talks.

According to Khasbulatov, talks on the basic principles of a treaty between Russia and Chechnya could be held in Moscow.

The Chechen side must be granted a certain legal capacity in order to remove all obstacles on the way to success at the talks, said Khasbulatov. He believes that Dudayev should be exempt from criminal prosecution.

Khasbulatov said that the sides must recognize limitations on Chechen sovereignty proceeding from the assumption that Chechen residents must be citizens of Russia, that borders between Chechnya and the rest of Russia must be open, that Chechnya and Russia must have single monetary system and that Chechnya must not have an army of its own.

All other issues could be placed under the jurisdiction of Chechnya, said Khasbulatov. "In this case Chechen residents would get the amount of sovereignty they have been speaking about since 1990, while Russia would get guarantees of maintaining its unity and territorial integrity," he said.

17 Dec Elections Not Seen as Feasible

LD1011191195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — Parliamentary elections in Chechnya should be held simultaneously with local ones, former chairman of the former Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov said during his visit to INTERFAX in Moscow Friday. "It is clear that they will not be held on December 17," he added.

The power-sharing issue should be settled before holding elections in Chechnya, Khasbulatov said. "The present leader of Chechnya, Doku Zavgayev, and other persons of much authority in the republic share this approach in principle," he remarked.

Khasbulatov said his own participation in the future elections was "of least interest" for him. "I am not looking for ways to come back to big politics, my principal goal is peace on Chechen land," he stated.

Speaking on the peace talks, he doubted that the federal authorities wanted peace. "Obviously, there is something deep inside that prevents them from making a clear statement to this effect, for instance, putting forward a political declaration on behalf of the Russian president," he said.

Asked about his relations with Dzhokhar Dudayev, Khasbulatov said he had not met him since military operations began, but is ready to do so. He called on the federal authorities to lift all charges against Dudayev and launch talks with him.

According to Khasbulatov, this should have been done long ago, since the start of the talks. "The federal side is negotiating with a delegation appointed by Dudayev. If they [the talks] result in some agreement, it will be invalid from the legal point of view, because the delegation was appointed by a person against whom criminal proceedings had been instigated," he added.

Asked about his relations with Yeltsin's staff, Khasbulatov said "there have been no such relations since the October 1993 events in Moscow, not counting contacts with the presidential envoy to Chechnya, Oleg Lobov,

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in Groznyy." At the same time, such relations could be very useful, primarily for Chechnya settlement, he suggested.

Council's Pain on Negotiating Process

MM1011114895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council and deputy chief of the Russian Presidential Analysis Administration: "Alliance of Zavgayev with Centrists Would Signal Political Defeat for Dudayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sporadic appearance in the press of pronouncements by official representatives of the federal authorities about the expedience of direct negotiations with Dudayev on political matters cannot be regarded as a rejection of the negotiation process. There is no alternative to negotiations on the Chechen crisis, but the nature of the negotiation process is now changing and greater emphasis will be put an internal dialogue between Chechens.

With Doku Zavgayev's appointment [izbraniye] to the post of head of the Chechen Republic, the Chechen leadership became more united and the internal differences in it were overcome. Moreover, Doku Zavgayev, as a figure who has never taken part in armed actions, has authority over a large part of Chechen society.

In these circumstances, progress along the road to a political settlement is possible if the Chechen leadership itself determines who it would like to invite to the negotiating table.

A dialogue between Zavgayev and Khasbulatov is very important for a political resolution of the Chechen crisis. Taken together, these leaders' popularity ratings most likely exceed that of Dudayev, and they would be able to unite Chechen society around a centrist position. In the present circumstances, an alliance between these figures would signal a complete political defeat for Dudayev. However, the complex relations in the past between the former Russian Supreme Soviet speaker and the former leader of the republic's communist party could prevent this alliance from being established. It would be more appropriate for the representatives of the federal authorities to appear in these negotiations as mediators and guarantors of any agreements reached.

As the Armed Forces in the Chechen Republic, as in any component of the Russian Federation, are under the direct command of the federal authorities, the negotiations on a whole series of military questions will continue to be conducted by the federal authorities. Whether the Russian Armed Forces' command will conduct military negotiations with Dudayev or other field commanders is not a question of strategy but of tactics. It will be resolved on the basis of an assessment of specific circumstances.

Chernomyrdin Meets With Paratroopers, Farmers in Tula

LD1311130495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Rudenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tula, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, arrived on a one-day working visit in Tula Region today. This morning the prime minister visited the Tula Guards Air Assault Division, which is stationed here, and familiarized himself with life on private farm holdings in Uzlovskiy District of Tula Region.

The head of government will also be holding a meeting with leaders of the Tula Region and town today, and will be visiting an exhibition of new products from Tula factories.

Ossetian Leader Neither Confirms nor Denies Sabotage

LD1211160495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By Sergey Gorbunov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 12 (ITAR-TASS) — North Ossetian Prime Minister Yuriy Bigarov neither confirmed nor denied that a breakdown on a major gas pipeline in North Caucasus was an act of sabotage.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Sunday [12 November], Bigarov said that teams of fire-fighters, repairmen and police have been urgently dispatched to the place of the incident.

Measures are being taken to fix the pipeline, he added.

Gas supplies have already been resumed to Georgia and Armenia via a stand-by pipeline.

This is the third breakdown suffered by the pipeline in the recent past.

Bigarov stressed that the government has taken additional measures to tighten security at all key facilities, motor roads, gas pipelines and power lines.

Mobile police units have stepped up patrolling in mountainous areas bordering on Ingushetia, Chechnya, Georgia and Kabardino-Balkaria.

The breakdown occurred on Saturday night near the village of Oktyabrskoye, 10 km from Vladikavkaz, and

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caused the gas to ignite, a spokesman for the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

The pipeline has been shut down. A 250-metre-long section of the gas pipeline is to be replaced. An investigation into the causes of the breakdown has been launched.

Yeltsin's Aide Visits Conflict Zone

LD1111154295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Nov 11 (INTERFAX) — The Russian president's advisor on inter-ethnic relations, Nikolay Yegorov, said the program for overcoming the aftermath of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict "will contribute to the final settlement of the situation in this region of the North Caucasus."

The program is currently being drafted by the governments of North Ossetia and Ingushetia and the Russian Interim State Committee for Dealing with the effects of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict.

Yegorov visited several villages in the Prigorodnyy region of North Ossetia, where Ingush refugees are to return, last Friday. He was accompanied by North Ossetian Prime Minister Yuriy Biragov and Chairman of the Russian Interim State Committee Vladimir Lozovoy.

"Relations between the two parties have become warmer since my last visit to the conflict zone," Lozovoy told INTERFAX in an interview.

Yegorov said the draft treaty on settlement of relations and cooperation between North Ossetia and Ingushetia would be ready by November 15, as provided for by the Russian president's decision. "This document will help to intensify the return of refugees to the Prigorodnyy region," Yegorov said.

Yegorov said the restoration operation in the conflict zone should be accelerated "so that refugees have homes to return to." He said he hoped that the federal authorities would ensure regular and full financing of the restoration operation.

Yegorov said the corresponding Russian governmental commission would discuss problems regarding the settlement of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict in the next few days.

New Government Formed in Republic of Kalmykia

LD0911221895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1433 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Vyacheslav Nasonov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Elista, 9 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The composition of a new government has been announced in Kalmykia. President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has decided to form the government despite the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to accept the outcome of the early presidential election in the republic on 15 October. [passage omitted]

Norilsk Autonomy Issue Resolved

MM1011135695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksey Tarasov: "There Will Not Be a 'Norilsk Nickel' Republic After All"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A commission from the federal organs of power, which included representatives of the Federal Security Service and the General Prosecutors' Office, headed by N. Yegorov, the president's adviser on regional and national policy questions, has visited Krasnoyarsk, Dudinka, and Norilsk and, it appears, has managed — at least on paper — to settle relations between the sides. It became known 8 November that two documents were signed. The Taymyr Duma revoked its decision to reassign jurisdiction over Norilsk and undertook not to return to this idea. And Krasnoyarsk Kray agreed to fulfill the northerners' conditions — to transfer some of the funds received from the Norilsk combine (environment tax, mineral resources tax, and road tax) to the Taymyr budget.

All the necessary conditions for the resolution of the territorial and economic dispute between two federation components — Krasnoyarsk Kray and Taymyr Okrug — have finally been created. The bone of contention was Norilsk's revenue, to redistribute which Taymyr first adopted a decision to remove Norilsk from the kray's jurisdiction and to subordinate it to the okrug, and then the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine intended to reregister in Dudinka — the capital of the Taymyr autonomy. Effectively, the combine aspired to the status of a federation component.

IZVESTIYA has discussed the progress of the conflict in the Arctic region throughout the past few years. The internal division of Russia is so peculiar and irrational that the creation of a precedent for territorial redistribution and of changes in powerful financial currents and the formation thereby of highly profitable

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zones and new oversubsidized territories was extremely undesirable.

Kaliningrad's Matochkin Views Talks With Panskov

WS1311083195 Kaliningrad YANTARNYY KRAY in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by G. Valiyev: "Goals and Results of Moscow Meetings" — first two paragraphs are YANTARNYY KRAY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **When Kaliningrad Oblast Administration head Yuriy Matochkin participated in the work of the Russian Federation Council last week, he managed to find time for several meetings to raise urgent issues concerning our regional development.**

Negotiations with presidential aide A. Korabelnikov, who handles regional problems, addressed the situation regarding the drafting and signing of an agreement on the separation of power between the center and Kaliningrad Oblast.

"After the meeting, I formed an opinion that our oblast will be the first with whom the presidential administration is inclined to sign such an agreement, based on our regional geopolitical peculiarities," said Kaliningrad Oblast Administration head Yuriy Matochkin to a member of a joint-stock company information service [as published].

This draft agreement is now in the Kaliningrad Oblast Duma. It will have to be discussed there on 26 October. After being coordinated in this representative body, the working document will be sent to Moscow. The date of its signing will also be specified later. It was proposed to us in the presidential administration to not delay the preparation process. Deputy Prime Minister S. Shakhray's visit to Kaliningrad must also encourage the acceleration of this process.

When I was in Moscow last week, I took part in the first meeting of a working group that was set up based on results of recent hearings of this draft law in the legislature. The working group is very representative; discussions were very dynamic; the majority of its participants support this draft law. The working group adopted a decision to submit materials to the Duma Council before 10 November to make it possible to submit them for consideration in the second reading in the latter half of November. Yu. Bedenko, chairman of the Committee for the development of the "Yantar" Free Trade Zone, has left for Moscow. He has taken two additional documents — at the working group's request — that were thoroughly redrafted by our experts lately. They are the concept of the law and the feasibility study of the need for its adoption. Hence, the last week was marked by intensive work to draft laws "On Separation of Powers Between State Power Bodies of the Russian Federation and Kaliningrad Oblast and Differentiation Between Subjects Under the Authority of These Bodies" and "On the Kaliningrad Oblast Special Economic Zone." One of current top priority tasks of the oblast administration is to carry these documents to "mandatory" completion, bring to their adoption and signing in Moscow later.

Prolonged negotiations were held with Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov. They primarily had to do with the delay in supplying the region with money from the federal budget. For example, among other oblasts, we have not yet received the August transfer payments. The minister promised to clear this debt only in late October or early November. Therefore, the current financial situation in the oblast is very difficult.

Vladimir Panskov and I also discussed opportunities to issue financial obligations on account of the Finance Ministry debts for capital construction to the oblast; the redemption of military debts for electric power, housing and municipal services and foodstuffs; and the accelerated allocation of credits for taxes [nalogovyy kredit]. An agreement on compensations that were assigned to the oblast for the removal of customs privileges was also reached. According to the minister's assurances, 10 billion rubles [R] will be transferred to the oblast in October and the remainder — R27 billion — will be transferred before the end of the year.

Based on the results of meetings in the Finance Ministry, the oblast administration is currently introducing considerable corrections in the procedures for distributing financial resources. Due to the fact that the transfer of money will not be made in October, it is necessary to use other sources — including nonbudgetary ones — to prepare for the winter period.

The minister failed to support our request to prolong the term for servicing commercial credits issued to Kaliningrad Oblast agricultural producers and the grain credit. This obliges the oblast administration to take all measures possible to timely service commercial credits. The oblast administration has decided to introduce a mechanism for making mutual settlements. For example, our agricultural producers have debts to the "Yantarenergo" joint-stock company to the tune of over R10 billion. The Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and border guards, however, have the same amount of debts to agricultural producers for their foodstuffs. We will now draw up special protocols on mutual settlements

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and send them to the Finance Ministry to "separate" these mutual debts.

In general, the meeting with the minister was useful, because we — in accordance with working procedures — managed to discuss many pressing issues, although not all of them were positively resolved.

Vladimir Panskov and I agreed to meet once every three months to coordinate our positions and introduce necessary corrections to the current financial policy.

Rostov Deputies Urge Renationalization of Energy Sector

MK1111064295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Rostov Legislators Want To Nationalize Fuel and Energy Complex. They Forward a Corresponding Proposal to Russian Federation State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rostov [-na-Donu] Oblast Legislative Assembly has decided to turn to the State Duma with a request to pass a law restoring state ownership of fuel and energy complex enterprises for the period of carrying out economic reforms. Deputy Anatoliy Rudas, who heads a commission on industry, transportation, and energy, blamed most of the failures of the local authority's economic innovations on the high-handedness of "Rostovugol," "Rostovenergo," "Oblgaz," and the other natural monopolists that have become independent joint-stock companies. The constant raising of tariffs, payment for their services, and their topnotch salaries are only some of their sins cited by deputies.

The drafters of the law for the de facto nationalization of the sector lay particular stress on the need for regional control over the situation. No special attention is being paid to hierarchical [vertikalnyy] control over the actions of local authorities.

Inveighing against a "new redistribution," the deputy oblast administration head for the economy, Vladimir Yemelyanov, declared that the nationalization idea under the present conditions is clearly selfishly political and populist. Mr. Yemelyanov reminded his fellow legislators what the result of well-known attempts to take from tens, hundreds, and thousands of owners what belonged to them.

His arguments, however, failed to impress the deputies. The proposal of the Rostov Legislative Assembly will be forwarded in the near future to the State Duma and the Russian Federation Government. However, as they explained to your SEGODNYA correspondent in the corridors of the Don parliament, the local legislators realize that the current State Duma is not going to have time to consider anything anyway.

Bashkortostan To Hold Referendum on Landownership

MK1111092895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova: "Referendum on Private Landownership Announced in Bashkortostan. Mikhail Lapshin Claims Premier No Longer Backs Idea of Holding All-Russia Plebiscite on Land"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bashkortostan President Murtaza Rakhimov declared the other day that a referendum on private landownership would be held in his republic simultaneously with the State Duma elections on 17 December. Remarkably, talking with your SEGODNYA correspondent a few weeks ago, Mr. Rakhimov categorically condemned Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's land referendum initiative and asserted that even their party subordination to the "Russia Is Our Home" leader was not going to make Bashkortostan leaders give up their bent for the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system.

Bashkortostan democrats account very simply for such a "change of attitude" of their president: In their words, those around Rakhimov "have calculated" that it will be absolutely safe to hold the referendum "in one isolated Federation component" where the old masters of kolkhozes and sovkhozes are still in full control of the citizen's "free expression of will." Thus, they state, "Rakhimov's initiative" in fact amounts to a "referendum against private ownership."

The extremely worried and aggressive reaction of Lapshin's Agrarians and Zyuganov's Communists to Premier Chernomyrdin's initiative to hold the referendum is most likely explained by the fact that the Agrarian bosses have strong doubts that a majority of the population likes the old loss-making farms, which eat up the lion's share of budget money and prevent the development of advanced technologies. Had Lapshin's and Zyuganov's comrades in arms really believed their own publicly voiced claims that "peasants are categorically against the free purchase and sale of land," the kolkhoz masters would have had only one option: To support the referendum idea and prove that the Russian people do not want to own land indeed. At the same time, the holding of such a referendum not all over Russia, but in a carefully selected patriarchal region like Bashkortostan, can be highly profitable for the Communists and Agrarians from the propaganda viewpoint.

It only remains unclear to what extent such plans of Murtaza Rakhimov have been coordinated with his party

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leader Viktor Chernomyrdin, who up to now has been proclaiming the implementation of citizens' rights to own land as one of his main election campaign slogans. Yesterday's statement by Mikhail Lapshin to journalists that during a meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin he allegedly received from the premier assurances that "no initiative for such a referendum will be coming from the government" also gives food for thought. More than that, according to Lapshin's assurances, the premier even allegedly said that he regarded support for the referendum idea by his ministers as "incompatible with staying in the government." We can only expect an explanation from the premier himself.

In any case, the holding of a referendum on private landownership does not seem quite reasonable — not because the "red landowners" are very unwilling to share land with all the citizens, but simply because, as advocates of the free purchase and sale of land justly stress, such a right is given to Russian citizens by the new Constitution. Since the Fundamental Law operates directly, all attempts to prevent citizens from making use of this right should be automatically regarded as contravening the Constitution.

Economic Issues

Aftermath of Paramonova's Removal Examined

MM1311115495 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 10-16 Nov 95 p 2

[Commentary by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "On Comrade Paramonova. But What Will Global Finance Say?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Immediately after the announcement on television Wednesday afternoon that Tatyana Paramonova had been relieved of her responsibilities as acting chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, I called her at her main office on Neglinnaya Street. Her aides still knew nothing of her dismissal. And although rumors of the possible replacement of the chief state banker had been circulating for some time, Tatyana Vladimirovna was nevertheless disheartened. You could sense that she was upset and found it hard to hide her resentment. Paramonova sorrowfully told me that she "had worked until two or three in the morning, not for the sake of money, career, or glory, but to get the job done." This was indeed her style — she left work late at night, and sometimes toward morning. My interview with her in June also ended deep into the night. In her words, the Central Bank's implementation of a tough, principled policy has led to undoubted successes: "1995 laid the basis for an upturn in the country's economy in 1996. This year could be the turning point in Russia's economic history. I would like for this to be so.... But how events will develop now — I do not know...."

Our somewhat emotional conversation also touched on that very topical subject of gold and the country's hard currency reserves. Back in January the situation in this area was catastrophic, and state hard currency reserves remained sufficient for just two to three days. "Today Russia occupies 14th place in the world in terms of gold and foreign currency reserves," Tatyana Vladimirovna said with understandable pride. By some quirk of fate, independent experts, when determining the world's best bankers, only quite recently had put Paramonova's name in the top bracket. At heart, she possibly hoped that this would strengthen her position in Russia. But the reverse proved to be the case. And although along with his edict on Paramonova's dismissal the president expressed his gratitude to her, stressing thereby that he was paying due tribute to her deserts, it seemed to me that Tatyana Vladimirovna was very upset by the edict.

At the same time, the Russian president scarcely had other options left. The State Duma has twice rejected Ms. Paramonova's candidacy for the post of the country's chief banker. The submission of the same candidacy for a third time would, I think, have provoked still greater dispute. On the one hand, thanks to the Central Bank's efforts, gold and foreign currency reserves have indeed been noticeably consolidated and increased, and many other useful things have been achieved. But, on the other, we should not idealize the situation in the financial sphere. Suffice to recall, for example, the severe banking crisis of nonpayments, the consequences of which will affect our economy for a long time to come, or the introduction of the currency band, which, against the background of continually rising internal prices, renders exports unprofitable and creates further distortions in the national economy.... Whatever the case, the president decided not to prolong the dispute and to propose a new candidacy.

The Central Bank has two first deputy chairmen: Arnold Voylukov, one of the country's major specialists in monetary circulation, and Aleksandr Khandruyev. Why has Khandruyev been appointed acting chairman of the Central Bank of Russia? Perhaps because he is well known in business circles and the political sphere, because he is articulate, knows how to find compromises while not ceding ground on questions of principle, is ready for dialogue with any opponent, and has the rare "diplomatic" ability to smooth over sharp, conflict situations.

It is entirely possible that the decision to appoint the 50-year-old Aleksandr Khandruyev is a sort of "trial balloon" to sound out public opinion. If the latter is

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favorable, if the major political forces and business circles do not give this appointment a hostile reception (and so far the reaction is generally positive), it cannot be ruled out that this candidacy will be officially submitted to parliament. It is indicative that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin himself went to the Central Bank to announce the president's decision to the collective. If we were talking about an interim figure for the next two to three weeks, this announcement could easily have been made by a vice premier.

However, a number of specialists consider Khandruyev to be a "transitional figure." The list of candidates, as they say, today numbers three individuals: Yakov Dubenetskiy, chairman of the Industrial Construction Bank, Sergey Dubinin, the former acting finance minister, and Aleksandr Khandruyev. Both Dubenetskiy and Dubinin could well be recommended for the post of chairman of the Central Bank by the president. Both of these figures are backed by extremely influential forces, including powerful financial structures.

Not so long ago the "rating" of both Yakov Dubenetskiy and Sergey Dubinin apparently stood higher than that of Khandruyev. But factors such as the predictability of his behavior and a desire to demonstrate the continuity of the Central Bank of Russia's policy could tip the scales in Khandruyev's favor.

The post of leader of the Central Bank of Russia is one of the key posts in the state. The person who assumes this position can influence the economy and the implementation of reforms to a greater extent than any minister or vice minister. Tatyana Paramonova was in this post for one year. "But if society is not ready for a woman to occupy this post," she says, "what can you do...?"

Khandruyev Cited on Policy Issues

LD1011205995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1844 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 10 (INTERFAX) — There will be no revolutionary changes in the Central Bank's policy in the wake of the replacement of its head, the newly appointed acting chairman of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR), Aleksandr Khandruyev, told journalists in Moscow Friday [10 November].

The CBR's policy "in all segments of the monetary market will be determined exclusively by the state of the country's economy and will not be affected by political fluctuations," he added.

"We will seek to solve the dilemma: keep down inflation and support commercial banks' liquidity, as painlessly as possible," he stated.

Khandruyev said he did not see reasons to speak of a worsening situation in the banking sector.

Speaking on the CBR's urgent problems, Khandruyev stressed the need to form a new board and submit proposals on the personal composition of the National Banking Council to the State Duma.

Khandruyev supported a constructive dialogue with the Russian Banking Association and other banking institutions. "I am not going to yield to compromises running counter to my principles. However, I believe that everyone will gain from a calm professional talk. I have never been and will never be a populist," he added.

Khandruyev Seen As Permanent Chairman

MK1111064495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Maksim Filimonov (Praym News Agency exclusive for "NG"): "Aleksandr Khandruyev Has Some Chance of Becoming Central Bank's Permanent Head"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The view voiced not so long ago that serious reshuffles would begin in Russia on the threshold of elections seems to be proving true. The reshuffles will apparently be special in that professionals with no definite political predilections will be appointed to top positions. Thus, quite naturally, the first to have been purged were "acting chiefs." For example, the man who for two years filled the position of acting prosecutor general has already been replaced, and the prosecutor candidate proposed by the president was passed by the Federation Council only because nobody really knew anything about the man pushed by the Kremlin, Yuriy Skuratov, besides his being a well-known legal scholar.

Now comes the turn of the Central Bank, which for more than a year has had no permanent chairman. Out is Tatyana Paramonova, who irked parliamentarians and bankers; in is Aleksandr Khandruyev, who arouses no negative emotions and who was first deputy head of the Central Bank of Russia. [passages omitted]

Aleksandr Khandruyev is the optimum candidate for the position of Central Bank head, so that "the sheep will not be touched and the wolves will eat much." One is not to expect from this appointment any special softening or toughening of Central Bank policy. However, Khandruyev is more flexible than his former boss Paramonova, and that leaves him with a chance to "run the gauntlet" of parliamentarians with minimal losses to the country's current monetary policy. Moreover, the appointment of a permanent head lends stability to the operation of the country's main banking department.

One proof that Russia's financial system will remain stable as a result of such a reshuffle of "kings in the

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pack of cards" is that the markets did not react in any way to the news of Khandruyev's having been appointed acting head of the Central Bank.

Experts note that there is no 100-percent confidence that the president will opt for Khandruyev's candidacy, because also named as aspirants for this post are Yakov Dubenetskiy, chairman of the board of directors of Promstroybank of Russia; former Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin; and Dmitriy Tulin, Russian International Monetary Fund executive director. [passage omitted]

Dubenetskiy 'Extremely Likely' To Succeed

MM1011101095 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Anisimov: "Look Who's Gone. Farewell, Comrade Paramonova...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tatyana Paramonova will go down in modern history as probably the most unsuccessful leader of the country's Central Bank: Not only was she unable to dispose of the irritating addition of the word "acting" in respect of her post, but she also had to go through the unpleasant process of being discussed by State Duma deputies several times. And all to no avail since the president has issued an edict relieving her of her duties and assigning them for the time being to Central Bank First Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev.

In purely human terms I feel sorry for Paramonova: First, she fell victim to deputies' prejudice against women in key state posts and, second, the banking community did not forgive her for introducing new payments to reserve funds. Even international recognition did not help — the influential GLOBAL FINANCE journal ranked her fourth in its annual rating of the leaders of the world's central banks.

Despite the fact that Aleksandr Khandruyev is now temporarily acting bank chairman, his chances of being approved are slim. If only because his name is closely linked with the Central Bank's whole policy over the past few years and politicians need if not renewal then at least the semblance of change. The names of S. Dubinin (who was recently acting finance minister) and Ya. Dubenetskiy (chairman of the Promstroybank Board) are being heard among the most likely candidates for the post of Central Bank chairman.

Sergey Dubinin is a strong candidate, not just because of his Finance Ministry background. We would remind you that he had to resign with [former Central Bank Chairman] V. Gerashchenko after "Black Tuesday" — scapegoats had to be found at the time. It is thought that the driving forces behind S. Dubinin are the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company and the "Imperial" Bank and that means that the powerful figure of Viktor Chernomyrdin is behind Dubinin. There is just one thing standing in the way of Dubinin's appointment — the authorities' uncertainty that his candidacy will be ratified by the parliament.

That is why it is extremely likely that Dubenetskiy will be suggested to the parliament. There are a host of reasons for that: He is a person on the sidelines of politics. And he may suit many people.

Reform Center Head Sees Ruble Peg Repeal as 'Untimely'

MK1111063495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "Russia Is Suffering From Post-St ɔilization Shock. Currency Peg Restrains Inflationary Expectations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Pavlenko, director of the Working Center for Economic Reforms (RTsER), thinks that the previous dynamic of the country's economic development gives reason for optimism. At yesterday's news conference, he said that since January, a tendency toward macroeconomic stabilization has been manifesting itself more and more steadily. By the end of summer, the improvement in the situation became more distinct in such sectors as ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, chemicals, and petrochemicals. This gives the RTsER reason to claim that stabilization is passing from the fuel and energy sector to the sphere of the manufacturing industry.

Mr. Pavlenko predicts a fall in GDP in 1995 of 3 percent, in industrial production of 3-3.7 percent, and in capital investment of 14-15 percent. It has been possible to keep the budget deficit at the level of 2.8 percent of GDP thus far. All this is far lower than last year and promises, in the economist's opinion, a transition to a positive dynamic by the end of the first six months of 1996. "Everything hangs on the passage of a realistic budget and the continuation of a responsible policy by the government," Mr. Pavlenko said.

According to him, the currency peg played the part of a price anchor. In principle, the problem of going out of the "corridor" is considered to be more complicated for a transitional economy, but it is "a bit too early" to speak about it in Russia, the RTsER's head believes, since the country permanently finds itself in the state of "elections," whereby inflationary expectations are being fueled by rumors and political agitation. "It is untimely to repeal the peg," Mr. Pavlenko said. "However, we

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can talk about changing the ruble rate 'slope angle.'" The director of the Center means that the rate of the national currency in regard to the dollar may follow the inflation rate in the ratio of 0.7-0.75. There is a good basis for maintaining this dynamic: a positive foreign trade balance and balance of payments. In this respect, Mr. Pavlenko thinks, Russia differs favorably from the economies of Hungary and Poland, also being reformed.

At the same time, the economist says, the country is suffering from 'post-stabilization shock.'" It lies in the temptation to abandon the economic course right at the moment when the first indications of its effectiveness have appeared. Among the dangers, Mr. Pavlenko cited a perceptible imbalance between wholesale and retail prices, triggering inflation. The fact that the income of the population has thus far been impossible to reinstate at the level of October 1994 is also worrying, although "taking into consideration the lowering inflation, the living standard of the population is not lower than last year's."

Legalizing the money turnover of the shadow economy is perceived by Mr. Pavlenko as almost the main problem of the government. In other words, legalizing small- and medium-scale businesses and involving them in the tax orbit will enable the Center to review the basics of budgetary federalism: that is, to cut subsidies to the provinces, which consider themselves to be depressed for that reason. Another problem then is encouraging private savings and turning them into private investment.

Chubays: Export Duty on Steel, Fertilizer Lifted

LD0911153895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — Export duties on steel and fertilizers have been dropped, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays reported to INTERFAX on Thursday.

"The government met its pledge to lift these export duties, and an appropriate decision adopted a few days ago takes effect as of October 20th," Chubays said, adding that the ruling is introduced as of last month because it favors the payer.

As known, the decision was drafted as part of cabinet measures to protect exporters, adversely affected by the dollar peg.

Chubays: Decree Does Not Decrease Shareholders' Rights

LD0911131695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — The recent Russian president's decree, setting September 1, 1996 as the date after which state packages of shares received on pledge can be sold "does not decrease share holders rights," Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays has declared in an interview with INTERFAX.

The document only "extends the period during which shares will be on pledge," Chubays said. The term of fixing as state property the absolute majority of the packages of shares privatized under the so-called "consortium plan" expires in the middle of 1996. "We postponed their sale for a period after September 1," he explained, adding that the trading procedure itself remains unchanged. "The same packages of shares will be turned over on absolutely equal conditions for all to those who will provide bigger credits, he said. After getting shares on pledge, an enterprise, a bank, or a businessman is immediately vested with far-reaching rights, including that to adopt personnel decisions."

Chubays stressed that after September 1, share holders would be able to sell shares at contests. "It is not ruled out that they will participate in such contests and will be winners," he predicted.

By experts estimates, as a result of the transfer of state-owned shares on pledge to creditors the government will get 2-3 trillion rubles to boost budget revenues from privatization.

Economics Minister Believes Budget Will Be Adopted

LD0911185395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin said at a news conference held in the House of Journalists today that theoretically, there was a possibility that the draft budget for 1996 would be submitted to the State Duma for approval in the first reading.

Yasin said that a Conciliatory Commission with the participation of experts from the government and the State Duma had reached accord on main economic parameters. The draft budget envisages, in particular, that the level of budgetary deficit against the gross

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domestic product will not exceed 3.85 per cent. Both sides have reached accord on non-inflationary financing of the budget deficit similar to what was done in 1995.

The economics minister said that despite "several setbacks", in 1995 the government managed to make a major breakthrough in the field of financial stabilization, which was confirmed by a step-by step decline in inflation rates. In October, inflation rates were at the level of 4.7 per cent compared to 15.8 per cent reported in the same period last year. In December, inflation rates are not expected to exceed three per cent, Yasin said.

Yasin believes that the introduction of the "rouble corridor" has "quelled" fluctuations on the currency market and fears of another inflation spiral. In the opinion of the economics minister, problems faced by exporters are not connected with the rouble corridor, but are accounted for by the beginning of the financial stabilization and strengthening of the rouble.

Yasin pointed out that in order to support exporters, measures are envisaged to lower exports duties and abolish them altogether, with exports duties for gas and oil to be lifted last. Besides, domestic energy prices and railway tariffs are expected to be frozen until the end of the year, the minister said.

KRO Leader Criticizes Chernomyrdin's Budget Policies

LD0911193595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 9 (INTERFAX) — Sergey Glazyev, one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], on Thursday again criticized the budget policies of the Chernomyrdin Cabinet.

Glazyev told a news conference in Moscow that the refusal to take additional measures to increase the revenue part of the 1996 draft budget indicate the government's desire "to live an easy life."

Glazyev, who also heads the Duma committee for economic policies, disagrees with the results of the conciliatory commission's activities on specifying the main indices of the 1996 draft federal budget. The commission has approved the government concept of the budget and agreed with the planned monthly inflation level amounting to 1.9 percent. "The index is very low," believes Glazyev, who cited a 1996 inflation estimate by the Russian Academy of Sciences of "at least 5 percent."

The lowering of the planned inflation level down to 1.9 percent will cause the lowering by 15-20 percent of the budget revenues, according to the committee chairman, and the "wages in basic industries will be two times lower than the subsistance level."

"People will be underfed. Their living standards will be as low as those of African countries, particularly of those who work in the spheres of education and health protection," warns Glazyev.

R3 Trillion Said Necessary To Prevent Bread Price Rise

LD1011175795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Konstantin Savvin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — A Russian Economics Ministry official in charge of agriculture said on Friday that, to prevent a rise of bread prices, Russia would have to shortly invest three trillion roubles [R] (nearly 667 million dollars) in centralised wheat purchases. He estimated the required amount of wheat, to be supplied to the federal fund, at six-seven million tonnes.

Anatoliy Lifanchikov, head of the ministry's department for the economics of agriculture, held a news conference in Moscow in view of the upcoming World Food-95 international exhibition to be opened here next week.

Lifanchikov said that, over 1995, Russia's agricultural produce dropped by 10 per cent while over the last five years its decrease made up 25 per cent. In 1994, the whole agricultural sector became loss-making, he said. In 1995, the amount of losses topped trillions roubles.

At the same time, Russia's food imports, especially of ready-made products, tended to go up. In today's Moscow, imports account for about 70 per cent of all food consumption. Throughout Russia, the share of imported foodstuffs currently makes up 20 per cent in case of meat, about 15 per cent in case of milk, and nearly 50 per cent in case of sugar, the official said referring to preliminary estimates.

Lifanchikov said, however, that the stage, when Russia is only importing ready-made products, cannot last long. Russia's food industry is hungry for foreign investment of at least 600 million dollars per year, he said.

Prices Blamed on Government 'Trickery'

MM0911143195 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Nov 95 p 2

[Article by Sergey Kara-Murza: "The Mechanics of Blackmail. The Christmas Loaf and Other Matters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The democrats' regime launched its election campaign by frightening the voters. The

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main threat is to choke us with the bony hand of hunger if we behave badly. [Moscow Mayor] Luzhkov went on television and promised that by the winter a loaf of bread will cost 10,000 rubles [R] in Moscow. Another big "democrat" threatened that the price would be pushed up to 15,000. They are following Yelena Bonner's idea: "There hasn't been any shock yet!" Meaning wait till we give you a real shock!

And they found a respectable explanation for their threats — it is the fault of the agrarians, who are demanding protection for the Russian producer, as a result of which grain import duties have to be increased. And they will not even say why it is necessary to buy American grain at twice the price of our own (and why it is necessary to buy French milk at R5,000 a liter and not to take milk from Moscow Oblast sovkhozes at R800 a liter, which consequently has to be fed to the livestock). They will not say what commission the bureaucrats receive on the conclusion of each import deal.

The amazing thing is that people believe the rubbish that is used to justify the crazy increase in the price of bread, even people who live in the countryside and ought to know the truth. Even now, people cannot conceive of the authorities being capable of telling such lies while looking them in the eyes.

Judge for yourselves, gentlemen and comrades; after all, you have all the data.

For the fourth quarter of 1995, a purchase price was set of R600,000 a tonne for Grade 3 durum wheat, and R550,000 for valuable soft wheat. The supply is extensive — from Altay, Siberia, and Stavropol. Not to mention rye, which is on the market at R550,000 a tonne (with a guaranteed minimum state price of R350,000). So until the new year, Moscow's bakeries are paying R600 for a kilogram of best wheat. That kilogram is enough to make two loaves nowadays. Under the Soviet system, the cost of milling, baking, and trade expenses totaled 1.1 times the cost of the wheat. They say the market system is more efficient, there is no bureaucracy, etc. (and also, workers' wages are negligible compared with Soviet times). But let us assume even that these costs have not gone down. All the same, the real prime cost of a loaf of bread in a Moscow store is equal to twice the cost of the wheat that went into the loaf. So today the prime cost is equal to R600-700. All the rest is the "markup," which the "democrats'" totalitarian regime can, of course, make as big as you like. Neither the kolkhoz members, nor the sovkhozes, nor the private farmers have anything to do with that.

What grounds does Luzhkov have for pushing the price up to 10,000? Maybe there is no grain on the market at the prices indicated? There is grain. In fact, the exchanges are dealing in wheat from the 1995 harvest now. What are the prices that will predetermine the real cost of a loaf until fall 1996? Here is an official report on exchange prices provided by the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food pricing policy administration: "Pricing on the grain market reflects its chaotic state; prices fluctuate within the range of R400,000-800,000 per tonne of grain." The chaos can wait, but as for the prices, there they are. A maximum of R800 for one kilogram of wheat, R400 a loaf. So right through to fall 1996 it will actually cost Luzhkov not more than R1,000 to put a loaf of bread on the counter. The remaining 9,000 will be extracted from our pockets by the racketeers who rule us, and they will blame the peasants. With the help of their henchmen on television.

How does the Chernomyrdin government intend to rush this piece of trickery through? By simply not buying grain. It is well known that the peasants, deprived of elevators, are unable to store the grain and will be forced to sell it at a low price. Purchases have always been made by the state itself — the owner of the elevators, mills, and bakeries. Today, apparently, it has made a deal with the speculators and "left the market," leaving the grain to middlemen, and only banks can play that part. The government has set a miserly volume of purchases for federal stocks from this year's harvest — only 9 million tonnes. And it has bought only 7 percent of that! The Ministry of Agriculture and Food itself warns: "Major financial organizations will seek solely to increase the profitability of grain speculations. So today there is a real danger of the major financial organizations monopolizing a significant segment of the market, the size of which will to a large extent determine the dynamics of grain prices." The speculator can extort any price from the bakeries, and the government supposedly has nothing to do with it. It won't be the government that is the bloodsucking murderer.

Thus Chernomyrdin, while staging a famine and bread riots, is at the same time campaigning for the buying and selling of land. Without that, he says, a loaf will cost a whole month's pension.

I understand the behavior of both Luzhkov and Chernomyrdin, just as I understand, for instance, the behavior of the thug who steals the coat from a passerby in a back street. After 4 October, there can be no petty complaints against these gentlemen.

I do not understand the behavior of our organized opposition. The authorities have hurled in the country's face the threat to stage a real famine — no reaction. They did not even demand that the government inform society of the structure of bread manufacturing costs.

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They did not demand that the television inform the whole country of real prices on the grain market: Who really knows what these prices are? These threats have escaped the attention of deputies from the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] and the Agrarian Party. And they also ignored Filatov's threat to stage a civil war — a totally serious, frankly historic statement. But then for some reason they took up a grievance against Yeltsin, and, what is more, in the shape of a bizarre complaint about "insulting the honor and dignity of Communists."

They will say they are not given access to the screen. True, the matter is worth publicizing countrywide. So publish a leaflet giving a simple breakdown of the cost of a loaf — a quarter of a page — and post it at the metro stations: It would cost a matter of kopecks! It is important for people to know! Lenin used to write whole articles about such things.

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International Affairs

Kuchma: Kiev Ready To Cooperate With NATO on Bosnia

LD1111213195 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine ought to actively take part in resolving the Yugoslav crisis, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said at a news conference in Kharkov on 11 November. Replying to a question from the INTERFAX-Ukraine news agency, he said that Ukraine is ready to cooperate on this issue with NATO too. However, its subunits are not preparing to take part in combat actions. We have already expressed our wishes, and will wait and see how this problem is resolved as a whole, Kuchma said.

Udovenko on Situation of Peacekeepers to Bosnia

LD1011140195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 10 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The formula of the possible participation of Ukraine's peace-making forces in operations held under NATO auspices in Bosnia is being specified still, "IF-U" was told today by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

"We cannot act in breach of the mandate given to us by Verkhovna Rada, which provides for the holding of peace-making operation under NATO aegis", he stressed.

According to the Minister, Ukraine should decide upon a new status of her peace-keeping troops, which would not necessitate Parliamentary approval.

As a possible example of the use of Ukrainian peace-keepers in operations, H. Udovenko named haulage of materiel by air. The Minister underlined that such haulage should be carried out on a commercial basis.

Nowadays, in keeping with the UN decision, the withdrawal of the 60th Ukrainian battalion belonging to the peace-making forces in Croatia is being completed.

The second battalion of Ukrainian peace-keepers in former Yugoslavia — the 240th — with a strength of around 500 servicemen, will continue its mission in Sarajevo (capital of Bosnia). In late October, the rotation of the battalion's personnel was completed.

Over the three years of its stationing in the Balkans, the Ukrainian peace-making contingent has lost 15 men.

Marchuk Attends Ceremony on Council of Europe Admission

LD0911132195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Strasbourg Nov 9 (Interfax-Ukraine) — An official ceremony of Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe [CE] was held today in Strasbourg, the site of the CE headquarters.

As an "IF-U" correspondent reports, the ceremony has been attended by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and members of the Ukrainian delegation, led by Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk.

In the course of the ceremony, Ye. Marchuk handed to the CE Secretary General the paper on Ukraine's accession to the CE Statute.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko has signed on behalf of Ukraine the European convention on human rights and protocol 11 to it.

The state flag of Ukraine has been hoisted in the square in front of the Palace of Europe.

Addressing the ceremony, Ye.Marchuk expressed the view that "Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe demonstrates the recognition of progressive changes carried out by our state in a comparatively short term, the support on the part of the European community for democratic processes in our country and the significance Europe pays to political and economic reforms in Ukraine".

The Prime Minister has stressed that Ukraine's access to the CE is a symbol of "her return to the European family of peoples. We have always regarded ourselves a part of it".

"The country situated in the geographical center of the continent, which has been forcibly isolated from European affairs for centuries, will at last take her place in the European home", Ye. Marchuk said.

He has described Ukraine's membership in the CE as a "guarantee of her security and sovereignty, her further moves along the path of market reforms and democratic changes".

The CE Parliamentary Assembly passed the decision on Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe this September.

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Nuclear Disarmament Progress Briefing Held

MM1011113895 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 10-16 Nov 95 p 11

[Report by Stanislav Prokopchuk under the "Facts and Commentary" rubric: "Arsenals Emptying, Treaties Foundering" — from the "Ukrainian Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine has already fulfilled some of its commitments under the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Armaments in Europe. The celebrations held at Kiev's tank repair plant — the last tank due for scrapping was cut into pieces there — was one of last week's most notable events.

Extra information was supplied at a briefing at the Defense Ministry. In addition to tanks, all the SS-24 missiles and 80 of the 130 SS-19 ICBMs have already been dismantled. It was stated that as of today 90 percent of the country's entire nuclear arsenal has been deactivated.

However, ministry spokesman Colonel Oleksandr Serdyuk did express concern and apprehension that the process of nuclear disarmament could be suspended. The reason is that a number of countries have not kept their promises to provide Ukraine with material aid in accordance with the Nunn-Lugar program. The United States, for example, has to date allocated only one-third of the resources it promised, while France, Britain, Italy, and Spain, it was pointed out, "have not have yet kept their promise" at all. Yet Ukraine is planning to start scrapping the missile launch silos next spring. Enormous resources, which the country does not have, are needed for these purposes.

Another very delicate issue was of interest to journalists: Who is in charge of the nuclear missiles on standby alert on the territory of Ukraine? It turns out that, at the operational level, they come under the command of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, but, as Colonel Serdyuk (and he is chief of the Ukrainian Strategic Missile Forces' Administrative Control Center) observed, organizational and technical measures have been taken today which render impossible the launch of a nuclear missile from the territory of Ukraine by the decision, say, of the Russian president. "The nuclear forces stationed in our country," Colonel Serdyuk concluded, "are under the administrative control of Ukraine."

Kuchma Meets With Russian Border Guard Director

LD1311094295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0246 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 12 (Interfax) — Director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service, Col. Gen. Andrey Nikolayev and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met in Kiev on November 11.

Nikolayev, who is also a member of the Russian Security Council, was instructed to meet with Kuchma by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The press center of the Federal Border Guard Service told Interfax today that Kuchma had been handed a personal message from the Russian president. Kuchma and Nikolayev discussed "problems in which the two countries are interested," the same source said.

Nikolayev also held active talks with representatives of the Ukrainian president's apparatus.

Russia and Ukraine agreed that settlement of the problems discussed at the talks will help to broaden cooperation between the two countries and will be in the interests of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples, the same source said.

Kuchma: Black Sea Fleet Deal Delayed for Political Reasons

LD1211152595 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX-UKRAINE reports: There are no technical issues in the Black Sea Fleet problem, only political ones, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said at a news conference in Kharkov on 11 November. According to him, some politicians in Russia would not like a treaty to be signed with Ukraine and were clinging to the Black Sea Fleet problem. He also said that the Ukrainian-Russian treaty on free trade, which was signed in 1994, was not being implemented. According to the president, one can only speak of entry to a CIS customs union only when this treaty is implemented. Touching on issues of the military-industrial complex, he said that adjustments would be made in this field in the near future. Leonid Kuchma emphasized that close relations with Russia would be established in this field in order to enter world markets together.

Naval Official on Black Sea Fleet Base Proposals

LD1311094395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0246 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sevastopol, Nov 12 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — A high-ranking representative of the Ukrainian Navy's command said Ukraine insists that the headquarters of the Ukrainian Navy be stationed in Sevastopol.

The official told Interfax - Ukraine today that the Ukrainian Navy's command had completed the drafting

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of documents for the coming meeting of Ukrainian and Russian experts concerning the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

The two countries' experts are expected to meet in mid-November either in Kiev or in Moscow. The date and the venue of the experts' meeting are likely to be discussed by the two navies' commanders within the scope of the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers.

Ukraine proposes that the Ukrainian Navy be based in Sevastopol, Feodosiya, Novoozernaya (Donuzlav), Ochakov, Odessa and Saki. In Sevastopol, Ukraine intends to base its navy in the Streletskaya, Karantinnaya and Kazachya bays.

The official said Ukraine's proposals did not run counter to the earlier agreements. He said the Russian Black Sea Fleet was proposed to have bases in the "most comfortable" Sevastopolskaya and Yuzhnaya bays and to have a number of facilities in Sevastopol.

The official said the two countries now had an opportunity to achieve progress at talks regarding the division of the Black Sea Fleet. He said he believed that Russia's position concerning the Black Sea Fleet's division had recently become "more constructive" which "gives reason to be optimistic with regard to the prospects for corresponding talks."

Armed Forces Chief Ends U.S. Visit

LD1011221095 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1730 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — The visit to the United States by Colonel Anatoliy Lopata, the chief of the general staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces, has ended. A plan for cooperation between the Ukrainian and the U.S. military departments in 1996 was approved. Lopata said he was satisfied with his meeting with General John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the U.S. Armed Forces. According to Lopata, the sides examined proposals by both sides' military commanders. Several joint exercises and seminars and the training of Ukrainian officers in U.S. military establishments are planned for 1996. Stances on approaches to the NATO Partnership for Peace program were refined, and the American side expressed itself in favor of Ukraine maintaining stable relations with Russia. The United States expressed an interest in the latest accords on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. The Ukrainian delegation informed the U.S. side on the course of nuclear disarmament. An exchange of opinions on the reform of Ukraine's Armed Forces also took place.

National Affairs

Kuchma Promotes Reform in Address to 'Creative Elite'

WS1011093395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0119 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Halia Pavliva, INTELNEWS Staff Writer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 9 — Since Ukraine has reached the point of no return in its efforts to reform, efforts of certain political forces to maintain the current "unstable balance" in society constitute a threat to national sovereignty, President Leonid Kuchma told a Thursday gathering of the nation's creative elite.

"If we proceed with reforms, we will move forward," he stressed in his talk to the Third all-Ukraine meeting of creative artists unions representatives in Kiev.

"The historical turning point has been passed through. The return back will never take place," he said. "If there is no realism in politics, we will lose the state."

The threat to the state, Kuchma pointed out, comes from "a symbiosis of forces which are interested in having a weak amorphous power in Ukraine." This symbiosis, according to the president, consists of representatives of the local elite, members of the mafia, state officials and politicians of the extreme left and right.

The components of this symbiosis are achieving their own goals, Kuchma said, by using the state property and state power placed into their hands to thwart his initiatives aimed at reforming the economy and creating a stable, law-governed state.

The president stressed that his task "to keep civil peace and order in Ukraine" is being rendered "impossible" by those "attempting to divide the country into East and West" and by "attempts to separate its citizens into politically conscious and non-conscious, into red ones and yellow-blue ones."

The nation's creative establishment has a special mission in the safeguarding of national values, Kuchma told the assembled artists and writers.

While saying that "freedom of expression is one of the greatest achievements of the young Ukrainian state," the president said that some publications need the special attention of law enforcement and that Ukrainian journalists need to confine their freedom of expression more strictly within legal limits.

Saying that he regards culture as "a warranty for social stability," Kuchma announced at the meeting the creation of President's Consulting Council on cultural

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issues. Ukraine's famous artists, creative unions members and officials will be invited to join.

Kuchma Visits Kharkov, Speaks on Constitution

LD1011211295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian at 1700 GMT on 10 November carries a four-minute report by an unidentified correspondent on Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's visit to Kharkov on 10 November. No video is available.

The correspondent begins by noting that Kuchma began his two-day working visit to Kharkov by attending the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Yaroslav Mudryy National Legal Academy. The correspondent adds that Kuchma is accompanied by chief of his administration Dmytro Tabachnyk, Deputy Parliament Chairman Oleh Dyomin, and Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh.

The correspondent then reports on Kuchma's speech at the academy. The correspondent says that Kuchma praised the students and teachers. He adds: "The Ukrainian president went on to analyze legal reforms and the most topical state-building issues (?in our state). He expressed the hope that as lawyers most of those present in the hall understood the importance and significance of the upheavals in Ukraine's state and political life, and in particular, he stressed, I quote, calm in the state is dearer to us than the political comfort of certain forces."

A recording of part of Kuchma's speech is then broadcast: "At the same time, we understand very well that unbalanced state authority and unhealthy competition between its branches is one of the most important factors impeding our society's economic recovery. On what fundamental principles will our further state-building be grounded? First, we understand clearly that the positive processes that have been started are far from completion. Their development requires additional efforts, above all (?from the aspect of) forming the constitutional principles of a new society. The constitutional treaty ensures the resolution of specific problems, and in fact leads us out of a constitutional crisis by giving the executive authority legal opportunities to act more autonomously and efficiently. But this event is just one stage. The adoption of a new Ukrainian constitution should definitely follow. The Ukrainian president has made this process more active. Preparations of a working draft Ukrainian constitution were completed literally a few days ago."

Oil Deliveries to Europe Suspended After Pipeline Accident

LD0911191195 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 9 Nov 95

[No video available]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil deliveries down the Druzhba pipeline via Ukraine to Europe have been suspended as a result of an accidental spill on Wednesday night [8 November] in Transcarpathia. According to the Ukrainian civil defense headquarters, the accident happened near the village of Golubinoye in Svalyava district, 40 meters from the Latoritsa river. The transit of oil was suspended around 2100 on 8 November and has not been renewed. About 150 square meters of ground surface has been contaminated, and some oil has spilled into the river.

Nuclear Reform Linked to Future Energy Market Entrance

LD0911173895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The concept of structural changes in the nuclear power engineering complex of Ukraine has been developed by specialists from the State Committee for Use of Nuclear Power. The concept is orientated toward the industry's future entrance to the energy market, which is envisaged by the restructuring program for Ukraine's power engineering. One of the main measures of the concept is to create on the basis of nuclear power stations a national company, Energoatom. This structure is to provide effective management of the main production processes and to work directly for the energy market.

New Crimean Constitution Receives Kiev Approval

LD1111214595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2126 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, November 12 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian parliament chairman Oleksandr Moroz gave his overall approval for Crimea's new constitution, but noted that some of its articles need fine-tuning.

Moroz said the parliament will discuss the new constitution of Crimea in the very near future, but could not say in what form this discussion will proceed.

Although Crimea insists on adopting the constitution without preliminary hearings, the speaker did not rule out the possibility that it could be an article-by-article discussion.

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He also recommended that the Crimean leadership consult the Ukrainian president on the articles which deal with the subordination of Crimea's law enforcement agencies and the appointment of its prime minister.

Crimean parliament speaker Yevgeniy Suprunyuk, who led a Crimean delegation to Kiev to garner support for the new constitution, told lawmakers on Saturday that the trip was very productive, but the provisions declaring Sevastopol, the main base of the disputed Black Sea fleet, an inalienable part of Crimea caused the most heated debates.

At the same time, he noted that these debates were held in a friendly atmosphere and "there was no any excessive faultfinding."

New Crimean Constitution Seen as Source of Conflicts

WS1311082195 Kiev ZERKALO NEDELI in Russian 4-10 Nov 95 p 2

[Commentary by Volodymyr Prytula: "The New Crimean Constitution: A Constructive or Destabilizing Document?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Late in the evening on 1 November, within the walls of the Crimean Supreme Soviet the anthem of the autonomous republic could be heard. Its ceremonial execution marked the adoption of another (fourth one during the past three years) Crimean Constitution by local lawmakers. Judging by all signs, it was not the last time that deputies to the Crimean parliament listened to the anthem of the great Alemdar Karamanov on such an occasion. Unlike the previous constitutions, the Crimean Basic Law passed on Wednesday will come into force only if it is approved by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. This makes it possible to presume that the deputies will very soon have to return to the constitutional issue.

Addressing a meeting of the Crimean Supreme Soviet Presidium on the eve of the parliament session, Parliament Deputy Speaker Anushevan Danelyan (who is also chairman of the Constitutional Commission) said that the sooner the Constitution will be adopted, "the better for us, because if we delay this process, it is unknown whether we will pass it at all, since in Ukraine political events develop in a singular way..." A tempo was set, deputies did their best, and it took them one day to adopt the Constitution instead of two. In the opinion of Deputy Dmytro Stepanyuk, chief of the Ukrainian Supreme Council working group for coordinating the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, who attended the meeting, the Crimean parliament rushed, adopted the Basic Law of the autonomous republic, and "did not coordinate its separate provisions with the working group and Ukrainian Supreme Council standing commissions." According to him, many articles of the adopted Constitution "as of today, contradict the current legal norms in Ukraine."

The contents of some articles may indeed trigger a negative reaction in the capital, only because local legislators did not listen to all remarks presented by experts and deputies from Kiev. For example, words about the Ukrainian Constitution were removed from the preamble, though references to "the people's will expressed during the 20 January 1991 all-Crimean referendum" and the 12 February 1991 Ukrainian Law "On Restoring the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic" were preserved. All of this sounds quite strange, because in both the referendum and the law the talk was about the Crimean *Autonomous Soviet Socialist* Republic, and in the Republic of Crimea proclaimed by the current Constitution there is only one name left after the Soviets [the Supreme Soviet — parliament], and socialism is not even mentioned. As for the word "Autonomous" (moreover, the capitalized one), it scares the hell out of the Crimean deputies!

The adopted version of the Constitution also maintains provisions on Crimean citizenship and the Crimeans' right to double citizenship, Crimea's ownership of mineral wealth, water, forests, the vegetable and animal kingdom, airspace, recreation and other resources located in the Republic; dual subordination of power structures (police and security services); appointing a prime minister without coordination with the Ukrainian president; and other provisions (including the one "On the Judicial Authority") which either are not coordinated with Kiev, or contradict the Ukrainian Constitution and the Constitutional Agreement [between the president and the parliament].

Nevertheless, the plenipotentiary of the Ukrainian parliament, Dmytro Stepanyuk, believes that the situation should not be overdramatized: "Although there are still acute angles, we will adjust them and settle everything..." He termed the adopted Constitution of the autonomous republic "in many respects, a constructive document" and a "step toward stabilization of the political and legal situation in Crimea." In the opinion of Dmytro Stepanyuk, the Ukrainian Supreme Council will be able to "settle" contradictions by "realizing its right to correct certain articles of the Crimean Constitution as an approving body, and after they are approved, they will have the force of law."

At the same time, Dmytro Stepanyuk voiced his concern over "the lack of guarantees for deported peoples in the Constitution." He said that the Ukrainian Supreme Council "will pay particular attention to this issue."

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It must be said that this is a very serious reason for concern. On Wednesday, the majority of deputies voted down the Kurultay [Crimean Tatar] faction's proposal to include in the Basic Law a paragraph on guaranteed representation of deported peoples in the Crimean Supreme Soviet and local self-government bodies, which was coordinated with Kiev. On Thursday morning, as a sign of protest against this decision, one of the leaders of the Organization of Crimean Tatar National Movement, Deputy Enver Kurtiyev, called the parliament's decision the continuation of the discrimination against the Crimean Tatars and a step toward destabilization, and announced a hunger strike, demanding that the Ukrainian Supreme Council "pass a law on rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar people, restore the Crimean Tatar people's political rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea while adopting the Ukrainian Constitution, and refuse to approve the Crimean Constitution without coordinating it with the highest representative body of the Crimean Tatars — the Majlis."

Toward the evening, almost all members of the Kurultay faction except for three people — who were either women or sick — joined their colleague's hunger strike. The protesters settled themselves in the Crimean Supreme Soviet building — demanding to revise the Constitution, and include in it provisions guaranteeing the Crimean Tatar people an efficient representation in the autonomous Republic's authorities and ensuring the actual equality of all state languages in Crimea. (Let me recall that according to the adopted Constitution the Russian, Ukrainian, and Crimean Tatar languages were proclaimed to be state languages, though only Russian as an official one). Deputy Nadir Bekirov, appearing on local television, said that he did not rule out mass protests by the Crimean Tatar population.

On Friday, Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Yevhen Suprunyuk initiated consultations among the factions to overcome the current situation. Crimea is entering a new (and more customary for it) period of conflicts and confrontations.

Rukh Opposes New Crimean Constitution

WS1311083995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2149 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Nov. 8 — The Rukh Party of Simferopol has asked the Ukrainian Parliament not to consider the Crimean Constitution, a draft of which was adopted by the Crimean Parliament on Nov. 1, Rukh representatives said in a released statement Wednesday [8 November].

The statement, signed by Simferopol Rukh leader Les Skoryk, contained an appeal to President Leonid Kuchma, Parliament and the Ukrainian government to recognize Medzhlis, the Crimean Tatar national assembly, as the authorized representative body of Crimean Tatars and give it legal status in the Ukrainian state power structure. The statement also demanded that reformation of the Crimea's governmental and parliamentary structure be considered.

"The path to building a democratic state chosen by the Ukrainian people in the December 1991 referendum is supposed to protect the rights of individuals as well as all nations for whom Ukraine is the land of their ancestors," read the statement. "The current situation, however, shows that Ukrainians and Tatars in Crimea face discrimination in their own state on their own territory."

The Rukh statement said that the problems of Ukrainians are being ignored by Simferopol and the national government in Kiev, according to the statement.

Rukh deputies said that they support the hunger strike by the Crimean Tatar Kuraltay faction. Rukh said it reserved the right to join the Kuraltay hunger strike if its demands continue to be ignored.

Crimean Tatar Deputies End 10-Day Hunger Strike

LD1211203695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, November 12 (Itar-Tass) — Crimean Tatar deputies ended their 10-day hunger strike on Sunday obeying their parliament's decision.

The parliament, the Mejlis, said the hunger strike has reached its goal — it has attracted public attention to the problems facing Crimean Tatars who demand guaranteed representation in Crimea's bodies of power and an equal status for their language.

However, since the majority of parliament members refused to recognise the demands put forth by the Crimean Tatar deputies, the Mejlis urged the Crimean Tatars living on the peninsula to carry out peaceful actions of protest.

Economic Issues

Kuchma Calls For 'Correcting' Reforms

LD1111154495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 11 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said

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his government planned to cut monthly inflation by the end of the year to between 4 and 5 percent, his aide Vitaliy Litvitskiy told Interfax - Ukraine on Saturday [11 November].

Kuchma made the statement during a visit to the industrial city of Kharkov.

Last month inflation in Ukraine reached 9.1 percent, according to the country's State Committee for Statistics.

An economic program drawn up by the government proposes measures to gradually reduce inflation over the next year, bringing it to 1 percent in December and lowering the annual figure to 34 percent.

During his Kharkov visit Kuchma also called for "correcting economic reforms" to stabilize production, Litvitskiy said.

Defense Minister Meets With Heads of Defense Enterprises

LD1011153895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 10 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov held a conference at the tank repair works in Zhytomyr yesterday with heads of defence enterprises. The conference analyzed the work of the branch in free market conditions.

The conference was attended by Petro Hermanchuk, Ukraine's Finance Minister, Anatoli Vrublevsky, deputy Economics Minister, and Oleksandr Chernysh, chairman of the Central Committee of defence industry trade unions.

V.Shmarov told the conference, among other things, that the "infrastructure of Ukraine's military-industrial complex is over-developed, and not proportional to the objectives of the Ukrainian Armed Forces". The Minister noted that nowadays, the country's military enterprises run at 40-60 per cent of their output capacity.

The conference pointed out the significance of repair works in maintaining the army's combat capacity in conditions when the budget provides for no funds for the purchase of new types of weapons.

As was reported by the press-service of the Defence Ministry, proposals were put forward at the conference on a reform of the branch through a new system of organization of labor, in particular, the establishment of joint stock companies on the basis of enterprises of the military-industrial complex.

The conference also covered the possibility of utilization of outdated combat equipment by manufacturers, which they do not do yet.

On Friday and Saturday, V.Shmarov is to pay a working visit to military units of the Trans-Carpathian military district in Ivano-Frankivsk and Trans-Carpathian regions to familiarize himself with the procedure of summary inspection of combat training in spring and summer, "IF-U" [INTERFAX-UKRAINE] was told at the press-service of the Defence Ministry.

Agriculture Ministry Reallocates Funds for U.S. Credit

LD1011222195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1820 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has allowed the Agriculture and Food Ministry to use 350 billion karbovantsy of budgetary funds — meant for the partial reimbursement for the worth of pedigree cattle — to make urgent payments to service U.S. credit of $25 million, allocated to purchase soya meal and to finance expenditure linked to dispatching and transporting this product. The UNIAN news agency learned this at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers press office.

Property Fund Chairman Presents Privatization Program

WS1311115995 Lvov INFOBANK in English 1010 GMT 13 Nov 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev — On November 10, the Presidium of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers approved in general a draft National Privatization Program for 1996. The Program was presented by the Head of the of the Ukrainian State Property Fund, Yuriy Yekhanurov. The Program foresees the completion of small-scale privatization in Ukraine by July 1, 1996; and the completion of transactions with property privatization certificates of Ukrainian citizens by December 31, 1996. It is expected that nearly 136,000,000,000,000 karbovantsi will be added to off-the-budget privatization funds; approximately 25,000,000,000,000 karbovantsi of this sum will be cash. According to Yekhanurov, during the nine months of 1995, 6,380 properties subject to the small privatization were privatized; and the sale of shares of 1,879 big properties began. He also said that the privatization rate in Ukraine is lower than it had been expected. The Presidium recommended that the draft Program be amended and submitted for approval to the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

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Commission Head on New Privatization Concept

WS1311114395 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with People's Deputy Oleh Vadymovych Taranov, head of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Economic Policy and National Economy Management, by Tatyana Melnichuk; place and date not given: "We Lose 300 Trillion Karbovantsi Annually" — first two paragraphs are VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **State ownership of means of production which has for a long time been a thorn in the side of supporters of social transformations is likely to become nothing but a dim memory soon. Shifting of privatization from a more likable economic [zhelatelno-ekonomicheskiy] sphere to a political one took place long ago and this type of privatization is in full swing. Nevertheless, according to the opinion of many well-known politicians, the role of the state, shifted by all the recent developments to the back seat, has been artificially diminished. The state political transformations, and the resulting economic transformations, have not yet triggered any of the expected results. Everything rather went the other way around. The "attack" by the left and right in the fall proved this clearly and reminded once again that economic stabilization can be achieved only after a correct political decision is adopted.**

What does this correct political decision look like? What is the in-depth reason for the social upheavals that are taking place in society? People's Deputy Oleh Taranov, head of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Economic Policy and National Economy Management, comments on the issue.

[Taranov] Indeed this has already become an axiom: The political situation in society becomes tense due to the absence of economic stability, and vice versa. Our troubles can be cited at length. They are a drop in production and impoverishment of the people; thus, there is a lack of correlation between incomes and the primary needs of the people, and so on. I am sure that this is taking place due to only one reason — paralyzed production. Enterprises are standing idle. As time goes by, this process is acquiring a greater scale. If we do not stop it, we will not be able to speak about any type of economic revival. But to do so, it is necessary to immediately balance the tax system, that is, change it from a system impeding the economy to the system bolstering it. Second, and this is the primary factor, it is necessary to revise the entire system of economic management.

[Melnichuk] The government program adopted by the Supreme Council envisages precisely these things....

[Taranov] Yes. Yevhen Marchuk's program envisages the division of all enterprises into three groups: state enterprises whose revenues go to the state budget and which are financed from the state budget; joint-stock companies whose controling blocks of shares belong to the state; and enterprises whose controlling blocks of shares are the property of other owners.

As is known, the task of any privatization is to create an owner. I am convinced that privatization by vouchers will not resolve this task. You must realize that if property of a large enterprises is divided into thousands of shares and if each individual obtains one or two of these shares, what kind of owner will emerge? It would be a fake owner! After such privatization, an enterprise will change its type of ownership, but will not gain anything. On the contrary! Before, the state at least somewhat supervised an enterprise, but when an enterprise becomes the property of a great number of poor people, it is itself doomed to bankruptcy....

[Melnichuk] I know that your commission proposes to resolve the problem in a way which, from a political viewpoint, can hardly satisfy market supporters....

[Taranov] We have submitted a new concept of privatization to the Supreme Council for consideration. This concept comes down to the following: The state must leave in its hands the controlling block of shares — somewhat between 30 percent and 80 percent — in the majority of large and medium-size enterprises. Indeed such a proposal is not only economic, but also political, and we must be determined to implement it.

[Melnichuk] Does this not imply a retreat to our bright past?

[Taranov] No, this is absolutely different. Having obtained a controlling block of shares, the state will have to act not as an absolute owner of an enterprise, but only as one of its shareholders. Thus, the state will automatically become a subject of the market with all the ensuing consequences. Regrettably, the other issue is that a body which would be responsible for managing these enterprises has not yet been set up. De jure, the State Property Fund must do this, while de facto, it cannot do it due to its busy schedule. The result, however, is deplorable: In financial terms, a lot of enterprises are unmanageable. As you see, we returned to the issue with which we began our talk — social instability in society.

[Melnichuk] To be more precise, we returned to your proposal of how to resolve this social instability....

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[Taranov] Our commission has proposed to the Cabinet of Ministers and the president to create — parallel with the State Property Fund — a state committee for property and management of corporate rights. If our proposal is accepted, this committee will deal with state securities.

[Melnichuk] Will this result in any genuine advantages?

[Taranov] Primarily, this committee will handle state property valuation, and this valuation will be genuine. I emphasize: Experts should value property based on international methods. Having valued state property, we could introduce other measures. Namely, stock in state enterprises should undergo stock quotation, because it is necessary to define the market price of stock owned by the state. The next step is as follows: The dividend [dividendy] policy should be precisely specified. I will provide you with a simple example: If one takes all stock owned by the state now and calculates at least the minimum interest [protsent] on this stock (5 percent), we will obtain over 300 trillion karbovantsi! Why is such a considerable sum being lost annually? This amount of money is the same as state budgetary revenues for three months!

The committee which we propose to establish should deal with precisely these issues. Moreover, it should be set up urgently. Later, based on Yevhen Marchuk's program and the economic concept of the president, a new system of economic management should be built. This system can be based only on normal economic laws common to the entire world. If we try to continue to build market relations based on the administrative-command type of management, we will ensure a further economic decline in Ukraine.

[Melnichuk] Oleh Vadymovych, all the time you have been mentioning market relations and simultaneously insisting on the state becoming the owner of the controlling block of shares in enterprises. Do you not think that this is a contradiction: What kind of market could it be, if again, like in socialism, everything belongs to the state, hence, to no one?

[Taranov] There is no contradiction. The trouble is that in our memory the state traditionally is aN administrative-command system. We think: The state is something that is antimarket, something that impedes. Yes, today, this is so. I agree: The current sector ministry is a nonmarket structure. But if we manage to shift to a system when the state becomes a subject of the market, that is, when it enters the securities market and attracts strategic investors, the situation will radically change. Of course, for the better. In fact as regards the current process of mass privatization, stock is dispersed among small investors. During the secondary redistribution of this stock, a single owner will finally acquire the controlling block of shares, but this will likely take place in some 10 years. Until this secondary redistribution takes place, crises will disorganize the economy. Precisely for this reason, I see the rescue in the leading role of the state in this process. The state must acquire controlling blocks of shares. It must become a subject of the market and guarantee market transformations. I realize that this is a paradox. But I do not see another way out. Only through sensible state management can one move to the full- fledged market. By the way, controlling blocks of shares in many enterprises are state property in Italy, Greece, France, and all over the world. And one should not be afraid of this, because it is an absolutely normal thing. The problem not in the fact who is the owner of the controlling block of shares, the matter is something else: How is the property managed? If it is managed by force, this is one thing; if it is managed in a civilized way, considering economic laws, this is another issue. Wew should move precisely toward this.

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Belarus

NATO Delegation Arrives To Discuss Partnership for Peace

WS1311091595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the NATO Supreme Allied Command in Central European countries is arriving in our country on a working visit today. The visit's goal is to brief the Belarusian Defense Ministry leadership on procedures for implementing the Partnership for Peace program.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Signs Protocol

LD1111212795 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The working meeting between Mikhail Chyhir and Adolfas Slezevicius, prime ministers of the Republic of Belarus and the Lithuanian Republic, has ended in Grodno. Here is our special correspondent Svyatlana Ilyushenka with the details:

[Ilyushenka] I should note the dynamic and fruitful character of the working meeting between Prime Minister of Belarus Mikhail Chyhir and Prime Minister of Lithuania Adolfas Slezevicius. The negotiations have resulted in the signing of a joint protocol. Under this document the economic cooperation between the two countries will be broadened and deepened. Belarus will be able to use the cheaper electricity of the Ignalina nuclear power station, as its supplies to our Republic will be increased. The list of Belarusian goods which will be sent to Lithuania in exchange for electricity has been confirmed. Such barter will simplify mutual payments and enlarge the turnover between the neighbors. Lithuania plans to buy $20-30 million worth of agricultural vehicles from Belarusian producers.

The flow of goods between the Grodno production association Azot and the Klaipeda port is intended to grow too. During the stay of the Belarusian and Lithuanian delegations with the prime ministers at that enterprise, they also discussed other economic issues.

It is planned to gradually eliminate some inconveniences at border control posts. Simplified control posts for residents will be opened by 1 February. Documents to that effect are being drafted so that customs services of Belarus and Lithuania will work jointly, thus making it possible to speed up the flow of cargoes through the border.

Border Documents With Poland Signed

LD1211123795 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Infrastructure improvements on the Belarusian-Polish border were the main topic of talks held 11 November in Brest. The Belarusian delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Leanid Sinitsyn, and the Polish delegation by Deputy Prime Minister Grzegorz Kolodko. The delegations visited the Kozlovichi and Varshavskiy Most border crossing points and inspected the construction of customs posts on the Polish and Belarusian sides. As a result of the talks joint documents were signed relating to the improvement of the infrastructure on the Belarusian-Polish border.

Lukashenka Declares No Elections Under Court's Law

LD1011225195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Nov 95

[Report over video by correspondent L. Sviridov of interview with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka; from the "Vesti" newscast — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether the elections are to be or not to be — arguments about this are taking place in neighboring Belarus too.

[Sviridov] Despite the fact that Belarus's Constitutional Court, after confirming the legitimacy of the parliament of the 12th convocation, decided that the elections in the republic would be valid with a 25 percent turnout of the electorate, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, in an exclusive interview with "Vesti" declared categorically:

[Lukashenka, identified by caption] "There will be no elections in the Republic of Belarus under this law. Let people call me what they like."

[Sviridov] By-elections to the republic's Supreme Council will be valid if 50 percent of the electorate turns out to vote.

[Lukashenka] "So the elections will take place only in this way and in no other way."

[Sviridov] During the past month, the Constitutional Court of Belarus has decided that a whole series of Lukashenka's edicts are unconstitutional.

[Lukashenka] "None of the decisions of the Constitutional Court that relate to my edicts will be observed in the Republic of Belarus or carried out. I have prepared an instruction for the executive organs of power, those who carry it out, and because of those political intrigues

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in the Constitutional Court, I am unable to accept any of the Constitutional Court's decisions."

[Sviridov] It looks as though the fate of Zorkin [former chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court] awaits Valeriy Tikhinya, the chairman of the Constitutional Court of Belarus.

Foreign Minister Denies Rumors of Resignation

LD0811184695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 8 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko has confirmed that rumors of his early resignation are utterly groundless. He was speaking in an interview on Wednesday.

Earlier, President Lukashenka himself dismissed such rumors at a news conference in Mogilev (Eastern Belarus) on November 1. Although Senko "has his own, independent vision of certain issues," there are no reasons for dismissing him, Lukashenka said and added that Senko would stay in office as long as he conducted the president's policy based on the results of the referendum.

IF Note: In last spring's plebiscite most Belarussians voted to support Lukashenka's policy of closer relations with Russia.

President Lukashenka described such rumors spread by the opposition as "moral terror" against a "skilled career diplomat."

Vladimir Senko said he was very surprised about the rumors and their timing. He recalled that the rumor about his resignation was launched when both the president and the foreign minister were attending UN jubilee ceremonies in New York.

Senko believes that this is a well-masterminded campaign. "Somebody is trying to produce chaos in the Foreign Ministry, to knock the foreign minister off balance and produce the impression of internal strife in the presidential team in the wake of the resignation of some officials," Senko said.

He said he appreciated the president's position in relations with the Foreign Ministry, which he described as very demanding and constructive. Those relations, he said, have always been decent and keynoted by political culture.

Senko said that his ministry continued to carry out presidential foreign policy.

Moldova

Snegur Suspends Moldovan-Russian Joint Venture Resolution

AU1111153895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2045 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 9 Nov (INFOTAG) — By his decree, President Snegur has suspended the validity of the governmental resolution dated October 2 "On the Establishment of the Struguras Moldovan-Russian Joint Venture".

For a better analysis of the current situation and a more efficient utilization of the property of the Struguras state-owned enterprise in the Nisporeni area, including for attracting foreign investments, a special commission has been set up which is supposed to do the work and prepare its competent propositions within two weeks.

Speaking in parliament last Tuesday, President Snegur said, the Struguras factory had been initially included in the 1996 privatization list, but had been withdrawn from it some time later, because the Government decided to establish the joint venture, with Struguras to serve its chief unit, but the Moldovan share in the joint venture was to be only 49 percent.

"The factory is quite profitable and receives foreign credits, that's why the staff's indignation is fully justified", Snegur stated.

Minister Views Ownership of Assets in Russia

AU1111153795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2040 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 09/11/1995 (BASA-press) — Moldova and Russia have acknowledged each other's ownership of assets located in the other state by a recently signed protocol, Privatization Minister Ceslav Ciobanu stated at a press conference today. According to the protocol, Moldova owns 10 wine bottling factories in Russia. The ownership papers for other three enterprises are being drafted. In its turn Russia owns three economic entities in Moldova, two of which are hauling companies. Five others will pass into Russia's ownership soon. Ciobanu said that Moldova and Russia signed an agreement on rules and order of privatization of enterprises located in the other country.

Enterprises may be privatized only at the owner's initiative and by the laws of the respective state. He specified that Moldova and Russia are the only CIS states which signed such documents and qualified this event as "important in the relations between the two states."

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Dniester Russian Community Wants Soviet Union Restoration

AU1111154095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2045 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dniester, 9 Nov (INFOTAG) — The chief objective of the Dniester Russian Community is the restoration of the Soviet Union and making Dniester a part of Russia, Lory Filippov, a leader of the socio-political movement, has stated. Speaking at the constituent conference of the Russian Community's subsidiary in Grigoriopol, he said the activities will include providing of assistance in assuming the Russian citizenship, and ensuring help to those who wish to move to Russia for good. "We shall be struggling for making Russia protect all ethnic Russians, no matter where they live. Is it not a disgrace when a Russian is forced to pay fortunes to buy a Russian citizenship? This is absolutely abnormal", Filippov said. He strongly criticized the economic policy conducted by the Dniester authorities that "are turning the socialist, socially fair economy on the capitalist rails, when the hard labor of thousands of workers and peasants is stolen by a handful of the rich."

Opposition Calls For Government's Resignation

AU1111194695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 10/11/1995 (BASA-press) — Opposition parties qualify the recent government report in Parliament as unrealistic and demand government resignation, while representatives of ruling coalition consider that "a government resignation would destabilize the socio-political situation in Moldova."

Valeriu Matei, leader of the Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc (BTI), told BASA-press that "Premier Sangheli's statements that the economic situation is improving are groundless and this determines us to demand that the majority cast a no-confidence vote on the government." Matei declared that the way the deputies debated over the governmental report denotes "the existence of a scenario with shock speakers written by the parliamentary leadership to jam the opposition... Sangheli's final speech proved one more time his primitivism and subjectivity and all this denotes the government's confidence in the support of the parliamentary majority. The present government cannot give citizens any chance to overcome the economic crisis," said Matei.

Iurie Rosca, leader of the Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCD], declared to BASA-press that the FPCD persists in its earlier opinion that the present government should resign.

Valentin Krylov, member of the Permanent Parliamentary Bureau and one of the leaders of the Socialist Unity fraction, told BASA-press that a government resignation would be unreasonable because it could destabilize the socio-politic situation. "All the more so as we are approaching winter, and it is very difficult to find new energy sources," Krylov said.

The Moldovan Liberal Party (PLM) issued a statement disapproving of the manner in which the Parliament examined the government report. According to the statement "retrograde forces prevailing in the legislature and government with utter cynicism proved their reluctance to develop democracy and promote reforms... We ascertain that the economic decline, including in agriculture, is taking place with the direct contribution of the Sangheli team — incompetent, anti-reformist and anti-national." PLM thinks that the reorganization of collective farms in joint-stock ventures preserves the central command administration system and does not allow farmers to till land on their own. "An indicative phenomena is government's tendency to estrange national assets. The intentions to give shares in industrial enterprises as payment for fuels attests to an open betrayal of national interests," reads the statement. While the PLM approves of President Snegur's attitude toward government's activity, it thinks the president did not use all means to influence the development of events.

Eugen Sobor, chairman of the Moldovan Party for Social Progress (PPSM), stated to BASA that government resignation would be unwelcome since there is no alternative team which could propose a program to overcome the economic crisis.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Ensure Democracy of Elections

LD1011214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 10 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev "is closely following the election campaign so that parliamentary elections be democratic and in line with world standards."

He told this to journalists during an inspection of some industrial facilities and construction sites in Almaty on Friday.

As is known elections to Majlis — the lower house — will be taking place on December 9, and to Senate — the upper house — on December 5. The registration of candidates to Majlis ended on November 9. The registration of candidates to Senate will end on November 15.

According to Nazarbayev, representatives of OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and many foreign countries have been invited to observe the elections. The United States will provide technical assistance in holding the elections.

The president hopes that the nation "will choose the best" in parliament, where "professionals must come to make laws in support of political and economic reforms."

Nazarbayev attaches prime importance to "political stability, agreement and friendship between nations in Kazakhstan."

Answering journalists questions, Nazarbayev reported that a presidential decree on Almaty's special status was currently being drafted. This decree, according to him, will be equal to law. IF Note: Last September Nazarbayev signed a decree, saying that before the government and parliament move to Akmola, Almaty remains the capital of Kazakhstan. A state commission has been working to help presidential and government structures to move to the new capital. The concrete date for this transfer has not been announced yet. The investors in the new capital construction project will get tax and other benefits.

Akmola numbers about 300,000 residents. The bulk of the population are Russians, 27% are Kazakhs.

"This city will remain a political, economic, cultural, and financial center for Kazakhs," the president said, stressing that he himself was born in Almaty and well remembers its one-storey private cottages."

Nazarbayev noted that as president "he has been doing all he can to raise the level of that city." He disclosed that there was a plan to sign a contract with foreign firms for the construction of a subway network in Almaty. Subway construction in the capital has been suspended because of scare funding. The president also stressed the importance of expanding the chain of hotels in the city. A second five-star hotel and several four-star hotels will be built in Almaty early next year. That, Nazarbayev hopes, will attract more tourists and businessmen to the capital.

He also told journalists that he had signed a decree, appointing 50-year-old Dzhenisbek Dzhumanbekov chairman of the National Security Committee. IF Note: Dzhumanbekov was born in the Dzambul region (southern Kazakhstan) in 1945. He graduated from Moscow's Food Industry College, KGB school at the USSR Council of Ministers. His rank is Major General. He has been with Kazakhstan's security bodies since 1971. He was KGB chief in Karaganda region (central Kazakhstan), Aktyubin region (western Kazakhstan, and Dzhambul region (southern Kazakhstan). From February 1994 and until his new appointment he was first deputy chairman of the National Security Committee.

Former Committee chairman Sat Tokpakbayev was appointed chief of the presidential guard.

Earlier, Nazarbayev changed Defense and Interior Ministers, and the republican Prosecutor General.

Government Agencies To Move to Akmola in 1997

LD1111174595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Nov 11 (Interfax) — Kazakh government agencies will be transferred to Akmola, the new capital of the country, in 1997.

An official at the government commission working on the issue told Interfax Saturday that the list of ministries and agencies to be transferred first has already been compiled. The list includes presidential staff, parliament, the government, the Interior, Defense, Economics and Finance Ministries.

According to the official, "the redeployment of these agencies will prepare the city for mass transfer."

The government has received proposals to develop the infrastructure of Akmola from Turkish, French, Korean and other foreign companies, said the official. He said that tenders for the reconstruction of the Akmola airport,

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construction of a business center and of a new residence district would be announced by December 1.

The official said that a law on tax, customs and other allowances for Akmola investors would be adopted in the near future.

Tajikistan

UN's Silovic Concerned Over Inter-Tajik Talks

LD1011211595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Nov 10 (Interfax) — A deferment of inter-Tajik talks could trigger off more fighting in Tajikistan, Darko Silovic, leading a team of U.N. observers in Tajikistan, said to Interfax on Friday [10 November].

The fifth round of inter-Tajik negotiations is due to open in Ashgabat by November 20th. The agreement to this effect was reached at a meeting held in Ashgabat on October 30th - November 1st between representatives of the opposition, the government of Tajikistan and the leadership of Turkmenistan.

Silovic voiced puzzlement at statements by some opposition officials that nothing concrete has been decided in regard to the forthcoming discussions. "Such declarations will not help to resolve the Tajik problem," Silovic said, adding that the "U.N. has done and will do all it can so that the talks take place as planned."

Silovic blamed the postponement of the fifth round, initially slated for September, on the buildup of tension in early autumn in the Tavil Darin and Garma areas east of Dushanbe.

Russian General: Possible Extensive Border Military Action

LD0911160395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Nov 9 (Interfax) — Militants from the Tajik opposition are concentrating their forces in Afghanistan and "searching for an opportunity to infiltrate Tajikistan," commander of Russian frontier troops stationed in Tajikistan Lt. Gen. Pavel Tarasenko told Interfax on Thursday.

Opposition militants intend to "illegally cross the country's border and set up bases in Tajikistan to spend the winter there," he said.

"Tensions are particularly high in the Shuroabad direction, opposite which about 200 militants have concentrated on Afghan soil," said Tarasenko.

On Wednesday militants used anti-aircraft installations and large-caliber machine gun to fire on a Russian frontier troops helicopter, engaged in supplying frontier stations with food.

600 to 700 "well-armed Tajik mojahedin" have concentrated in Afghanistan on the right flank of the Khorog Detachment and on the left flank of the Kalaikhum Detachment (the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in the east of Tajikistan), Tarasenko said.

"They are vigorously looking for a loophole to cross the border in order to infiltrate the Garm area and give aid to opposition units fighting with government forces in Tavil-Dara District," Tarasenko said.

He does not rule out the possibility of "an extensive military operation on the border," when the militants will attack Russian frontier posts and stations on a large scale.

Tajik Opposition Increasing Steps to Destabilize Situation

LD1011142595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Nov 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mainly small but well-armed groups associating themselves with the irreconcilable wing of the Tajik opposition are operating in the Pamirs foothills, not far from the Tajik-Afghan border. [Video shows street scenes and aerial pictures of mountains, holes left by bullets and explosives, burned truck, an official speaking, road checks] Their victims are mainly employees of law-enforcement bodies. Shelling of roadblocks and branch offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs happens here practically every day.

The latest brutal murder took place in Garmskiy District, where bandits ambushed and attacked a vehicle carrying militiamen returning from their duty. Eleven militiamen were shot at point-blank range and then burned.

On the same day, two more militiamen were killed in Komsomolabadskiy District. Anzhela Musayeva, a militiawoman, has become a victim of bandits in Dushanbe.

According to Tajik Internal Affairs Minister Saydamir Zuhurov, all the terrorist acts are thoroughly planned and are aimed at destabilizing the situation in the republic on the eve of the fifth round of inter-Tajik talks. Since the beginning of the year, 80 militiamen have already died at hands of terrorists in the republic.

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Turkmenistan

ECO Group Discusses Linking Central Asian Energy Networks

LD1111103295 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth meeting of the committee of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, on links in the power industry was held in Ashgabat on 6 and 7 November. Delegations from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan attended the meeting. During the summit, clause 14 of the Istanbul declaration on [word indistinct] describing the region as one which has great energy potential, both in terms of raw materials and other resources, was confirmed. This is why a carefully worked-out plan for pipeline construction and the joining of power networks is necessary to satisfy the demands of the whole region and to ensure an outlet to the world market and to sea ports for ECO countries.

On the day's agenda were, we will remind you, the Baku-Djeikhan oil pipeline route through Azerbaijan and Turkey with Kazakhstan's involvement, the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan oil pipeline with an outlet to the sea ports of the Indian Ocean, the Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe gas pipeline and the gas pipeline supplying Uzbek and Turkmen gas to Pakistan through Afghanistan. So far, the meeting has also proposed to the organization the joining of the region's power networks at two points. Ghen Glyshevich Niyazov, Turkmen deputy minister of power engineering and industry, has further details for our program.

[Begin Niyazov recording] In my opinion, this meeting of the [word indistinct] committee of ECO was very interesting and productive. In my opinion, from the point of view of the power industry, a very important problem — the unification of the energy system of the member countries of the ECO — was discussed at the meeting. [passage omitted]

The proposal was made to unite the power networks of Central Asia, which today are working in parallel. It was proposed that it be united at two points: one, in the area of the air base on the border between Turkmenistan and Iran to join a 400 kW line, and the second at the Nurek hydroelectric power station in Tajikistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan. This is a 500 kW line. This way, all countries [words indistinct], members of ECO, will have a single power network. [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Ashbabat, Tehran Ready To Aid Inter-Tajik Talks

LD1011211995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, Nov 10 (Interfax) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Turkmen counterpart, Boris Shikhmuradov, called on the Tajik government and opposition to launch the next, fifth round of peace talks as soon as possible.

According to a Turkmen Foreign Ministry statement published in Ashgabat Friday, Iran and Turkmenistan are ready to provide "a venue and all facilities for the talks."

Velayati and Shikhmuradov met in Tehran on November 8-9 to discuss the construction of an important railroad in Iran and to sign a memorandum on developing bilateral relations.

Shikhmuradov, Iran's Velayati Sign Transport Agreement

LD0911175395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting this afternoon between 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Boris Shikhmuradov, the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan in Mashhad, a memorandum of understanding was signed for cooperation in the field of transport.

According to the memorandum, Iran and Turkmenistan have agreed to provide more facilities for transport, trade and customs as well as the Bajgiran and Godan border markets.

Also at the meeting the two sides studied means of progressing bilateral relations and discussed important regional issues including the crisis in Tajikistan and Afghanistan as well as issues concerning the Caspian Sea.

At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati told reporters that the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean will be connected by railroad once the Mashhad-Tajan railway line is complete and that Iran will be at the center of the network.

He also said that the use of the railway will begin at the time of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit in Ashgabat early next year.

Mr. Velayati stressed that the opening of the Sarakhs-Mashhad-Tajan railway is the beginning for a regional and international cooperation in which Iran and Turkmenistan have a vital role.

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Uzbekistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives for One Day Visit

BK1111092995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was accorded a very warm welcome when she arrived in Tashkent today on a day's visit to Uzbekistan. President Islam Karimov along with his cabinet members greeted the prime minister at the airport. She was presented a guard of honor and national anthems of the two countries were played. The airport ceremonies over, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by President Islam Karimov, drove to the Presidency where they began bilateral talks.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, accompanying the prime minister, says the two leaders are expected to exchange views on situation in the region with particular reference to the situation in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kashmir. They will also discuss ways and means to promote bilateral relations in economic and other fields.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have identical views on regional situation, including Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Talking to newsmen on arrival at Tashkent this afternoon, the prime minister said that Pakistan believes that people of Afghanistan must determine their own government and destiny. She said we believe that there is no single group that has support of all Afghans. She said there will have to be a power sharing. Bloodshed should stop and there should be arms embargo for Afghanistan. She stressed the UN must play a role for peace and stability in this country.

Karimov, Bhutto Discuss Afghan Security

LD1111212595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 11 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent, 11 Nov — The civil war in Afghanistan, which is threatening to spill over into a regional conflict, was the main theme at today's meeting betwwen Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, and Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan. Bhutto is on a one-day working visit to Uzbekistan.

"The presence of Soviet troops, it appears, was not the main reason for this incessant warfare in Afghanistan. It is seven years since they were withdrawn and there is bloodshed just as before in Afghanistan," the president of Uzbekistan said during the meeting.

"Present events in Afghanistan, in my opinion, are the consequences of somoeone from outside skillfully directing, actively wanting to interfere in the processes which are taking place today in Afghanistan with only one aim - to attain a dominant position not only in this country but in the region as a whole."

It is our duty not to allow a similar aggression, not to allow an escalation of military activity and if possible to promote peace and calm in this long-suffering land, the president of Uzbekistan said. He shared Pakistan's concern on this issue and expressed his support and understanding for the Pakistani initiative, which is aimed at creating peace as soon as possible in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan jointly said that no one has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The UN Security Council must introduce an arms embargo on Afghanistan as soon as possible, said Islam Karimov.

Benazir Bhutto, for her part, fully agreed with this, according to the leader of the Uzbekistan state. Only the people of Afghanistan should determine who should be the ruling power, said the head of the Pakistan state.

The Uzbek and Pakistani presidents during the meeting also touched on the future strengthening of economic, cultural, trade and communication cooperation between the two countries.

Benazir Bhutto flew to Karachi in the evening.

Bhutto, Karimov Meeting Detailed

BK1211120295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Nov 95 p 1,13

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT (APP) - Any power sharing arrangement which is acceptable to the Afghan people and the leaders would have full support of the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared here on Saturday.

"We seek your cooperation to undertake joint efforts to ensure that the Afghan conflict does not spill over into other countries of the region and the Afghan people reach their much deserved destiny of peace by forming abroad-base government in Afghanistan," she stated at the lunch hosted in her honour by President Islam Karimov.

"Pakistan has no preference for any group or personality in Afghanistan," the Prime Minister reiterated.

"In our immediate neighbourhood, old and new conflicts foster," she said, adding, "the people of Afghanistan, Kashmir and Tajikistan yearn for peace."

The Prime Minister said, Pakistan has emerged on the international scene as a Muslim democracy with a

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constitution and rule of law, a stable macroeconomic structure, a responsible international player contributing to freedom the world over through UN peace keeping operations.

Pakistan, she declared does not believe in interference in internal affairs of other countries. She reiterated Pakistan's resolve to work together in advancing peace stability in the region for the economic development and well-being of our peoples.

The Prime Minister said, we are deeply concerned about the mindless perpetration of conflict and bloodshed in Afghanistan. "Being an immediate neighbour. Pakistan is directly affected by the turmoil in Afghanistan. We are awaiting an early return of peace and stability in Afghanistan so that more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees currently on our soil are able to return to their homeland with dignity and honour." she added.

Pakistan, she said, has consistently supported the efforts of the UN and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"We hope that wisdom would prevail and the Afghan leaders would be able to resolve their differences through peaceful means," the Prime Minister said.

About Kashmir, she said, "the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains grave."

"The Kashmir dispute is the root cause of tension in the subcontinent. It has led to an arms race. India cannot deny the Kashmiris the right to self determination, a right promised to them by the international community through United Nations Security Council resolutions. The United Nations Secretary-General has called the Kashmir dispute the oldest incomplete item on the agenda of the UN," she said.

The Indian authorities recently declared that they would hold elections in the occupied area. However, these elections have been rejected by the Kashmiri leaders who are demanding plebiscite.

The present uprising in Kashmir, the PM said, came about as a consequence of the rigged elections of 1987. Therefore, we do not see how yet another rigged elections can resolve the crisis.

Another grave concern, she said, is the situation in Tajikistan.

"Pakistan supports the efforts of the United Nations and the regional countries to promote peace in Tajikistan," she declared.

She referred to the third round of intra-Tajik talks held in Islamabad, and said, agreement signed between Abdullah Noori and President Rakhamonov was a step forward in the peace process. During the fourth round of talks held in Almaty, both the sides had agreed to take confidence-building measures. However, peace cannot return to Tajikistan until the two sides address all the core issues and amicably resolve their problems in the fifth round of talks.

Talking to newsmen on arrival at the airport the Prime Minister aid here today that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have identical views on regional situation including Afghanistan, Tajikistan.

She said that Pakistan believes that people of Afghanistan must determine their own government and destiny. She said we believe that there is no single group that has support of all Afghans.

She said, there will have to be a power sharing, bloodshed should stop and there should be arms embargo for Afghanistan. She stressed that UN must play a role for peace and stability in this country. Answering a question, the Prime Minister said, like Pakistan, Uzbekistan is a neighbor of Afghanistan and her visit was aimed at exchanging views with President Islam Karimov on situation in the region.

She said, Uzbekistan is a very important and large country in the region and admired the leadership of President Islam, Karimov.

To another question the Prime Minister said there is outside support for Rabbani regime in Afghanistan and they think the outside support should end and the United Nations facilitate a settlement.

President Islam Karimov said Pakistan and Uzbekistan have close relationship and they will exchange views on situation in the region as well as on ways and means to promote bilateral cooperation in different fields.

Earlier, a warm and enthusiastic welcome was accorded to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on arrival here Saturday morning on a day long visit of Uzbekistan.

President Islam Karimov received the Prime Minister at the Tashkent Airport, on arrival.

The Uzbek President Islam Karimov said that we are convinced that the Afghan issue could be resolved "only through conducting peaceful negotiations between all political forces in Afghanistan."

Speaking at a reception he hosted in honour of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he lauded the significant role Pakistan playing in the region and the world.

"As I have stated many times, the development of Uzbek-Pakistan relations is of great importance for us", he declared.

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"Our relations are developing successfully in the cultural, trade, economy and certainly, in the political sphere", the Uzbek President said, amidst prolonged clappings.

"According to our agreement", he said, "multi-lateral high-level meetings would be held in Islamabad with the participation of representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We pay great attention to this forthcoming meeting", he stated.

He said, the exchange of views between the two states have taken place today on the important regional problems and it has again amply revealed the efforts of our governments and the people to establish durable peace and stability in the region, to pave the way to peace and reduced tension in the neighbouring Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

He said, recently at the seminar-meeting on the issues of security and cooperation in Central Asia held in Tashkent, where the representatives of Pakistan also participated, Uzbekistan definitely made its position clear on this issue.

Trade With China Set To Increase

LD1111113095 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 10-16 Nov 95 p3

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing is interested in sharply increasing turnover. This was stated by Hu Jintao, member of the PRC CPC Central Committee Political Bureau Standing Committee and secretary of the CPC Central Committee, during the Uzbek-Chinese negotiations held with his participation in Tashkent.

In particular, China is ready to increase its purchases of Uzbek cotton fiber almost three-fold, as well as mineral fertilizers. The airliners produced by the V. Chkalov Tashkent Aviation Industrial Corporation have also aroused the interest of the Chinese side.

It should be noted that turnover between our countries is steadily increasing. In 1993, it amounted to the rather modest figure of $71.9 million (the export share from Uzbekistan was $36.6 million), then in 1994 it increased to $165 million (the export share from Uzbekistan being $76.9 million). In the first four months of 1995, the volume of trade reached $16.1 million, of which exports from Uzbekistan were $6.2 million and imports were $9.9 million.

It is interesting to note that, according to last year's results, the PRC occupied fifth place in Uzbekistan's foreign trade, which is definite proof of the strengthening of already developed relations and the desire to set up new economic ties.

The main items of export to the PRC today are chemical fertilizers, cotton and its by-products, machinery-technical equipment, and non-ferrous metals. Uzbekistan imports foodstuffs, chemical industry output and consumer goods from China.

A total of 87 Uzbek-Chinese joint ventures are operating on the territory of Uzbekistan today. However, it should be noted that these are on the whole trade and purchasing enterprises, which prefer to export raw materials from Uzbekistan and later import them as finished goods, whereas industrial production involving the processing of Uzbek raw materials in situ would suit the Uzbek party more.

Realizing the full complexity of the transitional period in the Uzbek economy, China is, along with other countries, rendering assistance to our republic. During the visit of PRC State Council Premier Li Peng to Tashkent in April 1994, an agreement was signed on the extension of a 50 million yuan credit to Uzbekistan. The Chinese Government also donated a free gift of 1.5 million yuan for the Soghlom Avlod Uchun Foundation, which was spent on purchasing medicines.

The main obstacle to the further development of trade and economic relations between China and Uzbekistan was and remains the movement of goods. The existing transport infrastructure cannot satisfy the partners. Lack of harmony in the customs legislation of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan provokes particular censure, as the businessmen of China and Uzbekistan have to cross several borders on route. Thus, the partners are impatiently awaiting implementation of the Great Silk Road project, which must also be decided, along with cultural matters and the transport problems of Asian countries.

EBRD To Grant $50 Million Credit To Develop Foreign Trade

LD1011175095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LONDON, November 10 (Itar-Tass) — The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has signed an agreement on implementing a development programme for foreign trade of this republic. An EBRD spokesman told Itar-Tass today that the agreement envisages a 50 million U.S. dollar credit to Uzbekistan.

Deputy vice-chairman of the bank David Hexter explained that this programme is aimed at liberalizing the trade system of the former Soviet republic and reduce the risk of financial transactions during payment for

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various trading operations. He expressed the hope that the programme's implementation will also help develop trade in the country, as well as strengthen ties between Uzbek banks and their foreign partners.

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Azerbaijan

Shafranik in Baku for Signing of Oil Development Agreement

LD1011193195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Sevindzh Abdulayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, November 10 (Itar-Tass) — The oil output in Chechnya is now larger than it was before the beginning of military operations, Yuriy Shafranik, the Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy, told a news conference in Baku on Friday. All the energy facilities, including a high capacity heat-and-power plant have been restored in that republic in the Northern Caucasus, the Minister said. Units of an oil refinery went into operation and oil extracted in Chechnya is exported via Tuapse and Novorossiysk.

"All this shows that concern over the transportation of early oil from Azerbaijan via the Chechen territory are groundless," Shafranik said.

An appropriate agreement between the Russian government and the Azerbaijani international operational company will shortly be signed, the Minister said.

Shafranik is in Baku in connection with the signing of an international contract for the development of the oil deposit Karabakh in which Russia will participate. The contract was signed on Friday.

Shafranik on Russia's 'Victory' on Karabakh Oil Field

LD1011212695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 10 (PIA-Interfax) — The conclusion of a $1.8 billion agreement on the joint development of the Karabakh oil field in Azerbaijan's Caspian off-shore sector by an international consortium including Russia's LUKoil, the Italian Agip, the U.S. Pennzoil and the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic "is a serious victory of Russia's oil complex and diplomacy," Russia's Minister for Energy and Fuel Yuriy Shafranik told the Petroleum Information Agency. "Projects of this kind promote integration in the CIS," he said.

"A Russian company's active participation in implementing projects in Azerbaijan demonstrates Russia's strengthening position in the region," he went on to say.

He also said that Russia's involvement in the development of an oil field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea (LUKoil is a member of the consortium for developing the oil fields Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli) is not limited to the contracts already signed. He announced that during his visit to Azerbaijan last May he reached an agreement with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev on Russia's participation in the development of other oil fields.

In accordance with the agreement concluded on Friday, LUKoil is to have a 32.5 percent share in the consortium, Agip and Pennzoil — 30 percent, each, and the Azerbaijani State Oil Company — 7.5 percent. The development of the Karabakh oil field will last for 30 years. The recoverable oil reserves of the Karabakh oil field are estimated at 70-80 million tonnes.

President Aliyev Comments on Oil Field Deal

NC1011221695 Baku TURAN in English 1220 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baku 10/11/95 TURAN— Today these was signing of contract on development of offshore oil-field Karabakh in the Azeri section of Caspian in Gulistan palace.

"Independent Azerbaijan thinks it necessary to develop its resources together with foreign companies. We try to connect out economy with economy of developed countries. That is why we sign this contract", President Aliyev said at the ceremony. He pointed out that having signed the first contract on development of three oil-fields Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli Azerbaijan faced many difficulties. "The foreign states and adversaries inside the country have exerted pressure upon us. However, we did not yield to pressure and do not intend to do that in the future", President Aliyev noted.

The resolution on laying of pipeline through Georgia and Russia has been approved by all participants of the contract. "It means that Azerbaijan is able to carry it through", President Aliyev said. He added the current contract has more political than economic significance.

The contract provides for development of Karabakh oil-field within 25 years. The oil resources are estimated at 85-150 million tons. The first oil will be extracted in 2003. 65-80 percent of the whole extracted oil will belong to Azerbaijan, President Aliyev said.

Russia's Minister of Fuel and Energy, Yuriy Shafranik, congratulated Azerbaijan on signing of the contract. He noted the contract has been prepared for a short period of time. "Since the first day Russia and our Ministry backed up the first and this contracts. We think that these projects are advantageous for Russia as well as for Azerbaijan. We backed up and will back up the next contracts", Shafranik said. He expressed gratitude to Azerbaijani Government for understanding and the share Russia received in the contract.

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Shafranik's speech has been taken as sensation and his words caused the storm of applause.

President Aliyev thanked Shafranik for "realistic position and for his contribution to development of relations with Azerbaijan".

The U.S. Deputy Minister of Energy, Charles Curtis, said the contract is aimed at the future. "We highly assess cooperation with Azerbaijan and we have common interests", he noted. Mr. Curtis noted the resolution on multiple pipeline is advantageous for Russia, Georgia and consortium. "We are glad with our participation in the contract", Mr. Curtis noted. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Constitutional Commission

NC1011172595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri at 1245 GMT on 10 November broadcasts live coverage of a 34-minute address by President Geydar Aliyev to the Constitutional Commission.

Aliyev criticizes past opposition leaders and parties and says that since June 1993 his team has managed to deliver Azerbaijan from its troubles and "criminals" and has protected and consolidated its statehood. He adds that the struggle against criminal activity should be intensified and that the "terrorists, criminals, racketeers, and violators of the citizens' rights should be stopped and punished." He then praises the security organs for the capture of those who planned to target his airplane with a rocket and of those who have committed acts of terrorism in the past.

Commenting on the party leaders' election speeches that discussed economic problems, Aliyev says: "They said nothing new. That Azerbaijan is in a social and economic crisis is only obvious. Ways are being sought and measures are being taken to overcome this socio-economic crisis. However, which opposition party has any program on this issue? Which of them has any concrete proposal? They do not. I saw nothing new in their speeches." He says none of the young opposition figures speaking on the economy have any knowledge of economics.

Aliyev adds: "Such inexperienced people can ever revive the economy or production. The funny thing is that — and imagine the point we have reached — these young people who have no worldly experience except their stale views on this subject, are now trying to give us lessons on production. You should know me better. I assumed the leadership of Azerbaijan 26 years ago. I know by heart all the production funds in Azerbaijan. Most of these enterprises and factories were build under my leadership, during my presence in Azerbaijan. Even when I was abroad for five years my hand was always on Azerbaijan. I know why and for what purpose these productions and enterprises were set up."

Aliyev calls on these "young" people: "Know what you are talking about, no one believes in your views. What you are saying is so inept and incompetent that even you yourself do not know what you are talking about. Let me be frank about this. We know how to develop the production and we are taking care of it."

Aliyev continues and notes that despite shortcomings, some financial successes have also been achieved in the past year, such as the stabilization of the Manat and a fall in inflation. He says the fact that the international organizations are cooperating with Azerbaijan is evidence enough that the economic liberalization process in Azerbaijan has been internationally acknowledged. He adds that international oil firms signed a major contract with Azerbaijan last year because of the development of democracy, democratization of the economy, and political and social stability in Azerbaijan. Aliyev adds that this morning, 10 November, a new agreement was signed and a new consortium was set up in Karabakh oil field. All these, he notes, was possible thanks to the conditions created in Azerbaijan today. He says oil-related investments will open new job opportunities. Aliyev adds: "However, all these are the beginning of our work and they will continue. What other road are you suggesting? Tell us. There is no other path. You cannot show another path."

Aliyev adds: "I reiterate that everyone has the right to freely express his views, and conditions will be created for it, provided that one says what is right and correct and the people are led to a correct path. Such wrong views and slanderous arguments bring no honor to some of our political parties." He says most of these "baseless" comments are about bribery in Azerbaijan, and adds: "Are we not talking about bribery too? But in addition to that, we are also taking measures against it. Whereas, you only talk about it. You know, I have experience in the struggle against bribery. Since assuming leadership in 1969, my first struggle was waged against the bribers." He argues that it was only after 1988 that the "bribers" were taken out of prisons, put on television, and made into national heroes. Yet, the opposition is silent about this, he adds. Aliyev then vows to continue the struggle against bribery, adding: "Unfortunately, those who talk about bribery are themselves bribe-takers or beneficiaries of bribery." Aliyev notes: "If you investigate the material and financial resources of the opposition political parties you will see that most of them are derived from bribes."

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Aliyev then says: "I did not come here on my own volition. I did not assume this position by struggling or pushing others out of my way. I did not desire it. However, in a way the fate, the people's will, brought me here. An enormous burden has befallen me. I will carry this responsibility and burden to my last breath, and will channel all my strength to this effect. No one can prevent me in this work. Anyone who wants to can come and help in the development of our state. I will not turn away anyone wanting to help. However, as long as I am here, no one can come here and achieve something through allegations." He says he has always acted lawfully and could account for all his past actions. However, he adds, as part of his job he also has made some inadvertent "mistakes" in selecting and appointing people such as former Prime Minister Suret Guseynov, "who could not stop committing crimes;" former National Security Minister Neriman Imranov, "who committed treason;" former Prosecutor-general Ali Omerov, "who deviated from the correct path and misbehaved;" former Defense Minister Mammed Rafi Mammedov, "who was incompetent and went astray and was removed from his post;" former Agriculture Minister Abdullayev, "who committed crimes;" former Deputy Prime Minister Asker Mamedov, "who never had principles;" and Ali Tahmazov "who almost licked the sole of Suret Guseynov."

Aliyev says these were not true mistakes but a natural part of governing. Commenting on opposition criticism of government cadre policy, Aliyev says there is no such policy and that appointments are now made according to ability alone and that the president has the power to appoint some officials. He says he has never acted illegally, with the sole exception being when he arranged for his former associate and current opponent Neymat Panahov to enter the university without taking an examination, hoping that Panahov would get an education and serve society.

Aliyev says: "It is up to the voters to decide for which party or candidate they will vote." Noting that he formed the New Azerbaijan Party in Nakhichevan in November 1993, Aliyev says: "This is a valuable party, it is very important for Azerbaijan, and intellectuals and people with sound views have gathered and will continue to gather in this party. However, it is up to the individuals to vote the party they want. Therefore, I believe our elections will be fully democratic. I have instructed our executive organs, and I repeat, the local executive organs and the law enforcement organs should not interfere in the elections. The elections are being supervised by the Central Election Commission and by its regional and district commissions. The law enforcement organs and local executive organs should help them facilitate their work; they should ensure public order in the Republic and the security of the citizens; they should prevent crimes, and not allow any crime to take place. I call on all citizens to be in solidarity and unity. Adopting our new constitution by referendum and holding our new elections will create a good basis for the consolidation and development of democracy and statehood in Azerbaijan. This is our achievement, and we must work to include 12 November as a day of great importance and holiday in Azerbaijan's history. I am sure of this and I believe that our citizens too will have a similar approach. This is all that I want to say. I again thank the members of the commission. I call on the people: Let each express his own position regarding democracy, justice, and truth. The protection of Azerbaijani statehood, territorial integrity, and independence is the main task facing us now. The constitution and elections will be a new stage in ensuring Azerbaijan's independence, and we will continue on this path with success. This is all I want to say."

Reportage, Commentary on Parliamentary Elections

Commission Declares Election 'Valid'

LD1211145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1439 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 12 Nov — The parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan can be considered valid. ITAR-TASS was told at the Central Electoral Commission that 54.6 percent of voters in the republic have cast their papers. This equates to nearly 2.3 million people. Nearly 4.3 million citizens of Azerbaijan are entitled to vote.

Preliminary Election Data Released

NC1211170195 Baku TURAN in English 1317 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 12/11/95 TURAN—According to data for 12.00 o'clock, the Central Election Commission received information from 98 electoral districts and 4,123 electoral sections. Out of 4,137,797 electors only 1,314,760 voted. It makes 31.8% of all electors of the country.

More than 50% electors have already voted in several districts. These are Sharur-Sadarak (Nakhichvan) - 54%, Sharur-Babek - 51.5%, Karadak - 56%, Akstafa - 51.6%, Belokan - 60.4%, Geranboy-Naftalan - 54.8%, Saatli - 57.9% and Samukh-Geranboy - 54%.

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By 4 p.m. TURAN agency received information about violations on electoral districts. In 22 district of Baku's Binagadi-Nasimi region the chairmen of electoral commissions told the observers voting of one member for the whole family is legal. The members of commission of this electoral district carry out all instructions of the head of Executive power. The police employees propagate to vote for Akif Muradaliyev - deputy manager of Presidential staff.

Ballot papers at 3, 4 and 5 electoral sections of 21 district of the Binagadi region were not calculated. Due to this fact it is unknown how many papers are on these sections.

The observers from the parties of National Independence and PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] were not allowed to the electoral sections 30, 31, 33 in Jalilabad region. Such facts have been also observing in the Geranboy and Gabala regions (5 and 13 sections).

The observers from independent nominees also have been not allowed to electoral section in Imishli region. The chairman of electoral commission said he did not receive any order to this effect.

At 32 electoral section in Tauz electoral district the observer F. Alekperli found that 400 ready ballot papers were put in the box in favour of nominee A. Zeinalov. The international observers drew up the act to this effect.

TURAN's correspondent reported from Tauz on several electoral sections members of "Yeni Azerbaycan" [New Azerbaijan] openly agitated to vote for this party.

Aliyev on Holding of Elections

LD1311080195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0246 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 12 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev said he saw the parliamentary elections and the referendum on the country's new constitution as free and democratic. The parliamentary elections and the referendum are underway in Azerbaijan today.

Aliyev said at a polling district in Baku, where he cast his ballots, that "the new election law and the constitution are fully based on democratic principles."

Aliyev rejected the accusations advanced by the opposition which described the elections and the referendum as anti-democratic. "The people's opinion will decide everything," he said.

Aliyev said he believed that the new constitution's adoption would positively influence settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. He said the new constitution confirmed that Azerbaijan guarantees all democratic liberties and human rights for Azerbaijani residents.

"If the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh renounce their aggressive and separatist policy, Karabakh will receive an appropriate status within Azerbaijan," Aliyev said.

"Nobody should think that hostility between Azerbaijan and Armenia will last forever. Previous friendly relations will be restored," Aliyev said.

Observers Denounce 'Fraudulent Elements'

NC1311101595 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Nov 13 (AFP)— Parliamentarians from the Council of Europe acting as observers on Azerbaijan's general election expressed serious reservations about the poll Monday [13 November] and criticised several irregularities.

The Council of Europe delegation "denounces a certain number of irregularities and fraudulent elements" in Sunday's election, citing in particular the absence of controls over ballot boxes prior to voting and the presence of more than one person in voting booths, a text published Monday said.

Results Show Pro-Aliyev Party Leading

LD1311104995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By Sevindj Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, November 13 (Itar-Tass) - According to preliminary official data, the New Azerbaijan Party has received the largest backing from voters in Sunday's parliamentary elections. The Party had been created in the republic about three years ago with a view to bringing Heydar Aliyev back to power. The Party invariably supported the political course of Azerbaijan's Head of State.

Voters also gave support to two opposition parties — the National Independence Party and the Popular Front. According to the same sources, most voters expressed approval of the country's new Constitution.

Sunday's parliamentary elections and a referendum on a new Constitution of the country involved more than 3,326,000 voters or 79.8 percent of Azerbaijan citizens with the right to vote. Such are some preliminary data received from 4,506 polling stations out of 4,574.

The seats were contested on party tickets by candidates from eight parties. Twenty-one out of 25 parties that failed to pass Central Electoral Commission registration

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either did not poll the required amount of votes or did not opt to participate in the elections on a proportional basis.

Four other parties, including such influential ones as the Musavvat and the Communist Party, were barred by the Central Electoral Commission on October 17 from participation in the elections on party tickets because of infractions in signature sheets presentation procedure. The Supreme Court of Azerbaijan confirmed the decision.

A joint observer mission of the U.N. and the OSCE who monitored the electoral process in Azerbaijan since the middle of September regard the decision as disputable.

The Mission believes that in accordance with international norms independent experts were to confirm or refute the assertions of their official counterparts whose opinion became decisive in the verdict on debarring them from the elections.

Commission Head: 'More Than 80%' Voted

NC1311123595 Baku TURAN in English 0935 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/12.11.95/TURAN—By 10 p.m. November 12 79.3 percent of electors took place in voting for the Milli Mejlis and new Constitution. So, the Parliamentary elections and referendum on Constitution took place, the Central Election Commission (CEC) told TURAN's correspondent.

The head of the press-centre of the CEC, Yusif Karimov, said these data does not include results of voting at 4 districts (76 sections), the information from which is not received. "If take into account these results too, number of electors took part in voting will be more than 80 percent", Karimov proposed.

Karimov said total number of electoral sections in the republic is 4, 574, which involve 4,262,326 electors.

Out of 4,167,558 electors at 4,498 sections only 3,306,824 electors participated in voting.

Georgia

Abkhazia Accused of Deception After Russia Lifts Blockade

LD0911185095 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1510 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abkhazia [no date as received] — The separatist government keeps practicing deception and treachery in its usual manner. This time it has done it with regard to Russia.

Despite the fact that Russian border troops have lifted a blockade of the maritime area of Abkhazia and commercial vessels resumed their visits to Sukhumi port, the Abkhaz side again failed the process of negotiations [on a peaceful settlement of the conflict]. It should be recalled that the Abkhaz separatists requested that the blockade be lifted and pledged to resume negotiations in return.

Abkhazia Against Changes to Russian Peacekeeping Mandate

LD1011152995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Irina Shchogoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOCHI, November 10 (Itar-Tass) — "Abkhazia will by no means agree to the granting of police functions to the Russian peace-keeping troops," Abkhazian President Vladislav Ardzinba told local journalists, commenting on Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's statement that he plans to call for the amendment of the mandate of Russian peace-keepers.

The Abkhazian leader stressed that the peace-keeping troops were moved into the conflict zone in accordance with the "Ceasefire and Disengagement Agreement", signed in Moscow in May 1994. It did not stipulate the discharge of any police functions. "Any amendment of the mandate, issued to the peace-keeping force, must be agreed both with the Georgian and the Abkhazian sides," he stated.

The Abkhazian president pointed out that the presence of peace-keepers should ensure the safe return of refugees, stressing at the same time that the order and mechanism of their repatriation were determined by the quadripartite agreement "On the Voluntary Return to Abkhazia of Refugees and Displaced Persons", signed in April 1994. "The Abkhazian side," Ardzinba assured, "is ready to adhere to the principles of this agreement. We cannot but note that the blockade of our republic in no way conduces the return of these refugees, and this must be realised by those who profit by the blockade of Abkhazia," he stressed.

No Official Reaction to Russian Protest of Detention

LD0911230395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Report by correspondent Nugzar Kereselidze from Georgia, including recorded comments by Vladimir Vozzhayev, commander of Russian border troops in Georgia; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kereselidze] Tbilisi has not yet reacted officially to a protest from Andrey Nikolayev,

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director of Russia's Federal Border Service, to Eduard Shevardnadze over the detention of a convoy of Russian border guards.

[Vozzhayev] There has not yet been an official response from head of state Eduard Amvrosiyevich, but I understand that with the elections having just finished and his trip to Israel, resolution of this issue has been delayed. There has been practically no reaction to this event either from the State Security Service or Ministry of Internal Affairs.

[Kereselidze] However, the press center of Georgia's Security Service made a statement that civilians who live in Abkhazia were arrested in western Georgia driving tankers of the Ochamchire Russian special border detachment. According to operational information, one of the drivers is suspected of having taken part in military operations on the side of Abkhaz separatists. The Georgian law-enforcement bodies have released those who were arrested and (?heeded) a request from Russian military representatives.

Vladimir Vozzhayev, commander of Russian border troops in Georgia, explained how the large number of hired staff is taken from the local population.

[Vozzhayev] When we take these people on, we check them out through our own channels and through Federal Security Service channels.

[Kereselidze] Clearly, the incident will be finally resolved when in the near future the director of the Russian federal services [not further identified] arrives in Tbilisi.

Talks With International Consortium Finalize Oil Project

MK1111064195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 9

[Unattributed report: "The Oil Pipeline From the Caspian via Georgia Will Be Ready by the End of 1996"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations between Terry Adams, president of the International Caspian Oil Consortium, and the Georgian leadership, which proceeded behind closed doors, ended in Tbilisi yesterday. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY sources, they discussed a large package of documents on technical, economic, and legal aspects related to the implementation of a project for the transportation of so-called early Caspian oil via Georgian territory (under another option, it goes through Russia). It was stated in the course of the meetings that a pipeline worth $238 million will be put into operation by the end of next year. A 117-km section of the pipeline is to be built on the territory of Azerbaijan, and an oil terminal at the Georgian port of Supsa. The costs are to be borne by the consortium and also by Turkey, which is interested in the earliest possible implementation of the Georgian transportation option. According to the consortium leadership, this sum will not be considered as Georgia's debt; moreover, all installations will pass into the republic's ownership, and it will receive hard currency proceeds for the transit. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY sources, the Turkish Government has already begun creating a "Project Company" that will engage in rebuilding the oil pipeline on Georgian territory and raise funds to finance the work. The company will include engineering firms from Turkey, the United States, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Georgia. The underwriter is Turkish Eksimbank.

Turkey To Use Oil Terminals in Lieu of Loan Repayment

LD1011163295 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1305 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The joint Georgian-Turkish firm Advarandolu has begun building a 60 MW thermal power station in the outskirts of Batumi. This is part of a programme aimed at providing the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria with electricity. The program has been drawn up by the Union of Georgia's Revival, which is headed by Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ajaria. The first two of the planned four generating units will be put in action next summer. [passage omitted]

The issue of repaying the Turkish loan of $29 million has been settled. The debt will be cleared off step by step in return for Turkey being alloed to use oil storage terminals. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Congratulates Shevardnadze Via Ambassador

LD1011214695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze met Vladimir Zemskiy, the Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia today. Zemskiy conveyed congratulations on the victory in the presidential election from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Council of Ministers Chairman [Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the embassy staff.

Shevardnadze thanked the Russian ambassador for the congratulations and warm attitude the neighboring country shows toward him and expressed hope that neighborly relations will continue.

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Political Figures Comment on Results of Elections

LD1111133995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1210 GMT 11 Nov 95

[All officials' remarks read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 5 November elections remain the main topic of our life today, and this will be the case until the Central Electoral Commission provides us with the final election results. In fact, we already have a general picture of the political forces represented in the parliament, and the past week has showed us the post-election mood of winners and losers.

Eduard Shevardnadze: By the year 2,000, Georgia will be a united, strong, democratic state, advancing along the path of prosperity. This will be witnessed not only by the youngest generation but also my generation.

Zurab Zhvania [general secretary of the Union of Citizens of Georgia: I am sorry that many worthy people failed to get seats in the parliament. I believe that with Shevardnadze's support, a consultative council will be set up, which will include all those who possess intellectual abilities. As it is, I reckon that those who had chances to win gained seats in the parliament.

Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia [leader of the National-Democratic Party]: The elections have been held. Georgia has been rescued.

Bakur Gulua [deputy prime minister, chairman of Reformers' Union]: The president will have a strong supporter in the parliament, the Union of Citizens of Georgia. It is very important that people with incorrupt morals come to parliament. Even the enemies will put their sword into the sheath and we all will begin to rebuild the country together.

Roin Liparteliani [candidate for the presidency, Agrarian Party]: Eduard Shevardnadze's victory was logical, but the results of the party elections must have been falsified, because the Agrarian Party was to be the winner, indeed.

Nodar Giorgadze [Union of Afghan veterans]: The country is in need of stability today, rather than anyone's being in parliament. If you want to do a good deed, this can be done outside the parliament, too. We have not been defeated. We fought honorably. However, we expected a more knightly competition during the elections.

Nodar Natadze [leader of the United Republican Party]: There are no facts proving that the elections were rigged. Everything else is rumor, individual impressions, and bare words. The new parliament does not and cannot reflect the interests of the majority of Georgia's population.

Mamuka Giorgadze [leader of the National-Democratic Party]: The elections can be regarded as a step forward. The alignment of the forces has not changed, only their correlation.

Irakli Tsereteli [leader of the Party of National Independence]: If the national movement had been united and together, the results would have been better and subsequently this would have been a magnificent revenge. However, this is probably what had to happen at the moment. Everything is the superior will of God. Our being outside the parliament cannot influence us. Most of us are outside. Big deal. We are in an optimistic mood. The parliament may do a good job. As far as we are concerned, we will give them as much help as we can.

And again Eduard Shevardnadze: The elections were absolutely democratic. Some like the results, others do not. Everything is over. There is no problem and we would rather not create one. [passage omitted]

Call on 'Discontented' Parties To Unite

LD1311101895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1900 GMT on 11 November carries a 4-minute correspondent report from Tbilisi. The correspondent reports that "the Central Electoral Commission is finalizing the election results in Georgia for an official announcement. Society is awaiting this information impatiently. The police are also preparing for these announcements, for it is quite clear that Jaba Ioseliani will not be in the new parliament, and as soon as the official information of the Central Electoral Commission is announced, he will be deprived of his deputy's immunity from the old parliament, and then the police will be able to arrest Jaba Ioseliani on the basis of the sanctions issued by the prosecutor's office on 30 August. Jaba Ioseliani seems to have reconciled himself to his fate."

The video report shows votes being counted, then cuts to an interview with Ioseliani in an office. Ioseliani says: "I do not intend to do anything. If they arrest me, they arrest me. The public, the world public will be interested in why, and that's all. If I wanted to fight I would chase them all out; and I surrendered weapons myself."

The correspondent continues: "However, the parties which have not made it into parliament, according to preliminary information, do not intend to give up. The parties that are close to the five percent barrier are especially active. On the whole, there are many discontented parties. In total, more than 60 percent of the electorate voted for them, and if they implement the calls to unite against the parliamentary parties, a unique situation will arise in Georgia: a mighty political

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conglomeration from the streets will fight MP's for power." He then holds a brief interview with the leader of the 21st Century preelection bloc, the Konstantin Gamsakhurdia Society.

Gotsiridze says: "The over 60 percent of the people will not allow the over 30 percent to hold sway. Therefore, of course there will be political instability. Almost all the parties will unite and create a single, united bloc, a united political force, and we will achieve what the majority of the population of Georgia wants."

The correspondent says in conclusion: "The majority of the population obviously do not want any more shocks."

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Estonia

Vahi Meets Icelandic Premier in Reykjavik

LD0911223395 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Tiit Vahi is on an official visit to Iceland. The government's press adviser Maarika Saarna-Siimann will provide a survey of his talks today with Icelandic Prime Minister David Oddsson in Reykjavik.

[Saarna-Siimann] Today's working day in Iceland began at 10 this morning with talks with Icelandic Prime Minister David Oddsson. [passage omitted] Russian-Estonian relations formed a very important item on the agenda as well as Russia's admittance as a Council of Europe member. Vahi emphasized that a stable Eastern neighbor is of particular importance for Estonia. In the present pre-election situation there have been calls from several Russian political forces to restore the Soviet Union within its former borders. This makes not only Estonia vigilant but also, according to Prime Minister Oddsson, there is growing concern in the West as to whether the Russian democratic development is in fact continuing.

The third important subject discussed at the meeting was Estonia's relations with the European Union and NATO. Estonia can expect firm support from Iceland in becoming a NATO member, but at the same time it was repeated on several occasions during the meeting that Iceland is a state that can assert influence on an international scale. Oddsson said that as the timetable for the EU intergovernmental conference has not yet been set and some countries think that talks with new members might start in 1998 — and many would postpone the beginning of the talks even further — it is not at all certain what the progress will be in considering Estonia's and other applicants requests for NATO membership. At the same time it was repeatedly emphasized that Iceland's support for this definitely exists and Oddsson said that in his view NATO's expansion is proceeding far too slowly. He voiced the fear as to whether a historic opportunity offered to Europe for the expansion of both NATO and the European Union was not in the process of being lost. [passage omitted]

Estonian-Icelandic free trade was also discussed. An agreement on furthering free trade between the two countries had been drawn up but then a new initiative arrived: Estonia would gain a free-trade agreement not only with Iceland and some other country but also on a broader basis, with European Free Trade Agreement [EFTA] countries. Now matters have developed this far, tomorrow a free trade agreement between Estonia and EFTA will be initialled in Geneva.

At the moment there is no Estonian-Icelandic agreement on the protection of investments. While Estonian investments in Iceland stand practically at zero, one could say that Icelandic investments have increased this year very vigorously. If at the beginning of the year Icelandic investments in Estonia amounted to 1.6 million Estonian kroons then by now this amount has increased to 5.4 million kroons. Cooperation takes place primarily in forestry as well as in fisheries. [passage omitted]

Vahi also met today with the Icelandic president, the parliamentary speaker, and others.

Vahi Says Visit 'Very Successful'

LD1211230695 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1900 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The official visit of the Estonian prime minister to Iceland was very successful, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said when he returned from the visit. Iceland is in favor of the creating a common visa-free space with the Scandinavian and Baltic states. The delegations agreed that a mutual agreement on investment protection between Estonia and Iceland would be concluded as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Begin Vahi recording] At discussions, we touched upon several issues: first, Estonia's current internal and foreign policy, Estonia's aspirations towards the membership of the European Union and NATO, also cooperation between Estonia and the Baltic Sea states. [end recording]

Icelandic Prime Minister David Oddsson expressed Iceland's position that Estonia must become a member of NATO and the EU, because this would be the only security guarantee for Estonia. Oddson said that the Icelandic Foreign Ministry was working toward establishing a visa-free regime with Estonia. [passage omitted]

Yesterday in Geneva, Estonia initialled a free-trade trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association [EFTA]. Vahi said that this was to strengthen further the trade relations between Estonia and Iceland. During the visit, the Estonian delegation met the president of Iceland, visited the Icelandic parliament and the national theatre. Vahi noted that Estonia was interested in strengthening cultural relations with Iceland.

Vahi had invited the Icelandic prime minister to visit Estonia, and it is hoped that concrete agreements would be signed during this visit.

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Russian Duma Delegation Discusses Treaty Ratification

WS1311123995 Tallinn BNS in English 1914 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 10, BNS — A group of Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) members that visited Tallinn this week showed at meetings with Estonian lawmakers great interest in the schedule of ratification of the bilateral agreements signed in July 1994.

The Estonian parliament's Russia support group and Russian faction discussed with Duma deputies mostly the situation in Russia and the ratification of the July agreements, Sergei Ivanov, the chairman of the Russian faction, told BNS Friday [10 November].

In Ivanov's words, the chairman of the State Duma foreign affairs committee had charged the delegation to find out the position of the Estonian parliament on the ratification of the treaties. The development of Estonian-Russian relations after Russia's upcoming elections was also under discussion, he added.

The Russian MPs, who left Tallinn Friday, had a meeting with parliamentary foreign affairs committee chairman Eino Tamm.

Tamm said he talked with Aivars Levzhdinsh, a member of the Russian parliament's foreign affairs committee, about the process of ratification of the July agreements and the integration of Russians into Estonian society.

The meeting was arranged at Levzhdinsh's request, he said.

The Russian delegation, which arrived in Estonia last Sunday, included besides Levzhdinsh Yuri Voyevodin, chairman of the parliamentary committee for relations with CIS countries; Andrey Zakharov, a member of the committee for relations with compatriots; and Marina Zvirina, an expert of the compatriots committee.

Foreign Minister Addresses Council of Europe Committee

WS1011101695 Tallinn BNS in English 1754 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 9, BNS — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas, speaking Thursday at a session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg, paid much attention to Estonia's relations with Russia and the entry of Russia into the Council of Europe.

Kallas said Estonia was in favor of Russia's speedy accession to the Council of Europe, but not before Russia met all CE requirements.

"Just as a banker, or any citizen for that matter, would not accept a dollar that is slightly forged, (the Council of Europe) should not succumb to accepting members that fall slightly short of Council norms," Kallas said in the first speech he delivered in his capacity as foreign minister. He was sworn in on Monday.

In Kallas' words, Estonia is closely following developments in Chechnya and the approaching State Duma (lower house) elections in Russia. "Both the preceding election campaign and the results will certainly give valuable indications as to how a future membership is conceived," he noted.

As to the border negotiations between Estonia and Russia, Kallas said the talks were based on outstanding border questions, not territorial pretensions. "Any claim otherwise would be viewed as detrimental and provocative," he emphasized.

Kallas told foreign ministers of 37 European states that Estonia was keen to consolidate and develop its relations with all democratic countries in Europe. "As the former president of the Bank of Estonia, I championed the values of a free and open economy. As foreign minister, I now seek to promote the values of a free and open society," he stated.

The foreign minister emphasized that the Council of Europe, the European Union and NATO are elements of international life essential for the construction of a new Europe. "The West must not hoard these resources...but must invest in the future of Europe," he said. "Money creates money, security fosters security, and democracies promote democracy."

Kallas announced the plan of the Estonian government to formally apply for membership of the European Union within a few weeks. "This would be a most significant contribution to stability and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a whole," he said.

He also urged member states of the union to seek a speedy completion of the ratification process of Estonia's association agreement with the EU.

Latvia

Birkavs on Lithuanian Actions in Oil Dispute

LD0911133995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of the oil deposits is an internal Lithuanian problem, not a matter of international relations, said Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs today, commenting on the note presented by Lithuania. He emphasized that Latvia does not intend to continue [word indistinct] relations with Lithuania.

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As we have reported, a Latvian delegation left for Lithuania today to inform the Lithuanian Government and public about the (?details of the) licence agreement concluded by Latvia with the Amoco and OPAB companies. Tomorrow, Lithuanian Ambassador to Latvia Rimantas Karazija, who was recalled for an indefinite period, is to return to Latvia from consultations in Vilnius.

Birkavs Favors Arbitration in Dispute

LD1211201295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs believes that the issue of Latvian and Lithuanian maritime border, which has been discussed by both countries for a year and a half now, should be settled in the nearest future. In Lithuania, political temperature is very high because of this dispute and this means that the problem is being dealt with in an unprofessional manner, Birkavs told the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper.

According to Birkavs, the quickest way for solving the problem would be to submit the case for an international court. Such a step would also reduce the tension in the internal policy [as heard]. Birkavs noted that Lithuania and Latvia should continue negotiations and should keep seeking compromise. However, I do not understand Lithuania's concern: Latvia, as a sovereign country, has a right to sign such a contract on oil exploration if this does not violate economic interests of other countries, which is stipulated in Article 24 of the oil exploration contract, Birkavs said.

The Latvian foreign minister believes that the recalling of the Lithuanian ambassador from Riga for consultations was inadequate, considering the good neighbourly relations between the two countries. He assured that Latvia has no intentions to recall its ambassador for consultations. We would like to see the relations between the governments of the two countries as friendly as they were before, Birkavs stressed.

Delegation Returns From Lithuania After Talks

LD1011195795 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] At the moment the center of attention in both Lithuania and Latvia are the two neighbors' relations, though we might smile at it all, the way we fight with the Estonians over [?sprats], and with the Lithuanians over gas. This Sunday Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis was due to visit Lithuania. A request to put off this meeting has come from our side, and that will evidently happen next week. Commenting on the situation that has arisen, on the telephone from Vilnius is Ronalds Toms:

[Toms] The official reason for the postponement is the formation of the Government in Latvia. Instead of the Latvian president, Latvian Government representatives arrived in Vilnius to clear up the situation in mutual relations. However, it appears that this meeting did not succeed in bringing clarity to either side. According to Rimantas Sidlauskas, deputy minister at the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, the information that has been exchanged between the two sides is only a basis for reflection, namely, as to what should be done next, and how can we work together to try to get out of this situation. So, in the judicial sense the situation has not changed since this meeting. The Latvian Government is keeping to its contract, and just as strong is the Lithuanian position as expressed in the note on Wednesday [8 November].

But a different view was ventured by Rihards Mucins, the press secretary at the Latvian Foreign Ministry, who took the opinion that since the meeting the Lithuanian representatives ought to be clear that Latvia is not claiming Lithuanian territory. Sidlauskas said after the first round of talks that basically nothing new had come to light. The Lithuanian side would like to declare [?a redistribution of the zone fixed in] the agreement signed by the Latvian Government on licensing, which is also what Juris Ozolins, the Latvian minister of state for energy later did, in talks with his colleagues when he presented this information. Immediately new tendencies appeared in the tactics. The Lithuanians, [words indistinct] the diplomatic methods, are setting up the organization of their own extensive oil search work, in their territorial waters. Unfortunately it was not possible even here to avoid ambiguous statements and responses. To the question as to why Inesis Feifers, the leader of the Latvians' talks with Amoco, did not come to Vilnius, Mucins said that he had to stay in Riga. Yet according to Baltic News Service reports, Feifers had [word indistinct] the Lithuanian Government [word indistinct].

[Announcer] That was a report from Vilnius. Also, just now, evidently on this matter too, my colleague [name indistinct] has come into the studio with a report.

[Correspondent] Yes, just now the Latvian delegation has got back from Lithuania, and this delegation was led by Ozolins. Also in the delegation was Mucins, the press secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and I had a short conversation with him. Best to listen to what he said:

[Begin recording] [Mucins] Altogether in these two days we had three meetings. One was a full one, in which the [word indistinct] at the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry took part [word indistinct], and that was the meeting at the Foreign Ministry. After that, yesterday

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evening, there was a second meeting. The delegation met with the authorized persons from the Lithuanian Government, and Latvia's view was expressed once again about the agreement with Amoco. This morning there was a meeting with the Lithuanian president.

[Correspondent] What were the main results of the talks?

[Mucins] In fact the purpose of this visit was to once again [?show] this agreement signed between Latvia and Amoco to the highest level on the Lithuanian side, and to draw their attention to the fact that there is nothing threatening in this agreement. I think some understanding was achieved, as we must understand that in Lithuania this matter is regarded quite [?bitterly], and that is connected with [?how to get an appropriate political outcome]. The positions [?have to be expressed], and [word indistinct]. I think that the possibilities are not quite exhausted, [?I suspect] that there are possibilities for both sides in this matter [word indistinct]. We already know that the Lithuanian ambassador has now returned to Riga, and of course he would also have some additional [words indistinct]. Both sides testified that the talks must continue, specifically on the sea border issue, and both sides are interested in [word indistinct]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Military Cooperation Plan Signed With Denmark

WS1311082695 Tallinn BNS in English
1105 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 8, BNS — Latvian Defense Ministry's State Secretary Janis Davidovics and Danish Defense Ministry's Planning Department Director Per Carlsen Tuesday [7 November] signed the year 1996 cooperation plan between Latvia and Denmark.

The plan provides for the Danish Defense Force commander's visit to Riga, mutual visits of the Latvian Naval Force and the Danish Air Force leaderships as well as negotiations between both countries' armed force staffs' representatives.

Different courses will be held in 1996 during which civil and military personnel will be informed about the Danish defense system and activities of the armed forces, administration and budget drafting issues as well as regional and European security problems.

These seminars will possibly be attended by Estonian, Lithuanian and Polish representatives.

The plan also provides for Latvian-Danish military cooperation by organizing in Denmark trainings for the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion's Latvian company and courses for battalion commanders.

Davidovics said that several cooperation activities, including trainings and mutual visits, will take place between Latvian and Danish air forces, naval forces as well as voluntary military organizations.

Lithuania

Vilnius Hosts Seminar on European Security, NATO

WS1311134595 Tallinn BNS in English
1910 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 10, BNS — Politicians from NATO countries, the three Baltic states, Poland and some members of the Commonwealth of Independent States gathered in Vilnius on Friday [10 November] to discuss current issues of European security and particularly relations between Russia and NATO.

Russia must recognize that stability in neighboring countries benefits Russia itself, Ole Biering, a former Danish ambassador to NATO, said at the opening of the international seminar. Russia's interests — no matter how powerful Russia may be — can only be realized on the basis of international legal norms, he stressed.

Andrey Kelin of the Russian foreign ministry's NATO department, who is representing Russia at the seminar, stated that Russia itself had spoken out for the greatest possible stability in Europe. NATO expansion, however, should not be hasty, since detailed examination is necessary to clarify the needs and intentions of all states concerned, he said.

Vytautas Pleckaitis of the Lithuanian parliamentary committee for foreign affairs doubts if Russia really can understand that the Baltic states are seeking NATO membership because of fear of Russia.

Kelin, however, denied the existence of a new Russian defense strategy, as was published by newspapers. This defense strategy includes a possible invasion of the Baltic states in the event that they are accepted into NATO.

The international seminar, titled "NATO and the Partnership for Peace in the new architecture for European security," continues on Saturday.

Vilnius Begins Negotiations on WTO Membership

WS1311120195 Tallinn BNS in English
1300 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 11, BNS — Lithuania has started talks on joining the 128-nation World Trade Organization (WTO), officials said on Friday [10 November].

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The first meeting of a working group was held in Geneva Friday to discuss a Lithuanian memorandum on foreign trade, to acquaint the organization's members with the current state of the Lithuanian economy, the system of regulations for domestic and foreign trade and with progress in economic reforms.

Algimantas Rimkunas, secretary of the Lithuanian foreign ministry, is heading the delegation, the foreign ministry information center reported.

In order to achieve integration in the world trade system, Lithuanian membership in the WTO is essential.

Representatives of the United States, countries of the European Union, Australia, Canada and other WTO members welcomed the Lithuanian delegation in Geneva.

Finnish Parliamentary Speaker Addresses Seimas

LD0911132095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The chairwoman of the Finnish parliament, Riitta Uosukainen, has expressed her support to Lithuania in its bid to join the European Union. Finland supports the aspiration of the three Baltic countries in the most active manner, said Riitta Uosukainen today, addressing the Lithuanian Seimas.

The head of the Finnish parliament noted that there is a long way to go from an isolated economy to the total integration and promised that her country will share its experience. Uosukainen stressed that most Finns, unlike the people of two other new members of the European Union, are satisfied with the results of their first year of EU membership. For Finns the EU membership also means strengthened security, Riitta Uosukainen said.

The head of the Finnish parliament described the European Union as axis of the European cooperation and said that it remains to be seen how the EU will be developing and what joint security — or even defense — policy will be adopted.

Foreign Ministry: Latvian Oil Agreement To Be Revoked

WS0911145995 Vilnius ELTA in English 1754 GMT 8 Nov 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 881]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, November 8, ELTA — "No spoken or written proposals or documents produced at the negotiations with Latvia over delimitation of territorial waters, exclusive economic area and continental shelf are any longer binding to Lithuania," a Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's note reads.

The note was handed in on Wednesday [8 November] to Latvian Ambassador to Lithuania, Alberts Sarkanis.

Also, it states that Latvian government has ignored Lithuania's proposal to settle all questions regarding the delimitation in the Baltic exclusively by way of mutual negotiations.

Latvians did not pay attention to Lithuanian proposals on joint exploration of natural resources within the delimitation zone, the note reads.

The neighbouring country did not take into consideration Lithuania's continuous and justified opposition against unilateral acts either, it says.

Latvia signed a licence agreement with AMOCO and OPAB oil-processing companies on exploration and explotation of oil-rich areas in the Baltic sea and included into the agreement certain Lithuanian and disputable areas in the Baltic sea without being delegated to, the note reads.

Such Latvian government's acts are qualified in the note as violation of Lithuania's sovereign rights to its continental shelf and its resources.

The internationally respected principle of international marine law which requires not to threaten final settlement on delimitation by any unilateral steps was violated too, the note says.

The principle was confirmed by Lithuanian and Latvian foreign ministers in a protocol of September 14.

The note further states that the neighbouring country ignored a provision contained in the Concord and Cooperation Agreement which was signed by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia in 1934 and renewed in 1990.

The provision reads as follows: "The contracting parties shall do their best to settle any question which could confront their interests in a voluntary, just and legal manner."

The Northern boundary of the Lithuanian territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the Baltic sea runs in a straight line from the Lithuanian-Latvian land boundary point on the Baltic shore to a point at which geographical parallel B = 56o 07' 35" [as received] intersects the boundary of the Baltic continental shelf of a third state.

Any acts of third countries southward from this boundary have and will have no legal effect, Lithuanian Foreign Ministry says.

This part of the Latvian government's licence agreement with AMOCO and OPAB oil-processing companies which deals with the Baltic area limited by the above

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line is illegal, may not have and has no legal effect and therefore is to be revoked, it says.

Nevertheless, the ministry expressed the confidence that problems caused by Latvia's unilateral acts were of temporary nature and would not be an obstacle for further development of all-round relations between the two states in the spirit of "Baltic solidarity and strengthening confidence and cooperation in the process of integration in European and Transatlantic institutions."

The note also states that Lithuania "is determined to settle all existing problems in the spirit of friendship and good will and is striving towards a just delimitation of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf between Lithuania and Latvia."

Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Service said this country hoped that the Latvian government would take into account the proposal by presidents of both countries as to joint exploration of natural resources within the delimitation zone.

Foreign Ministry also said Lithuanian Ambassador to Latvia, Rimantas Karazija, was soon to go back to the neighbouring country to head Lithuania's diplomatic corps. Recently, he has been revoked for consultation.

Foreign Ministry secretaries Albinas Januska and Rimantas Sidlauskas were received on Wednesday by President Algirdas Brazauskas and Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius to coordinate the text of the above note to Latvia.

"We have got information which was not confirmed in writing" that Latvian experts intended to come to Lithuania on Thursday, said the officials after the meeting with Lithuanian leaders.

Latvian LETA news agency earlier announced that Latvian Foreign Ministry had decided on Monday to invite Lithuanian officials to Latvia instead of sending a Latvian delegation to Lithuania.

Prime Minister on Relations With Latvia

LD0911181795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1430 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius held a news conference in the cabinet offices today. Vincenta Dapkiene has this report.

[Dapkiene] As we know, a diplomatic note was presented to Latvia, outlining the stance of the Lithuanian Government. However, the relations between the two neighboring countries are not dramatic, the prime minister said.

[Begin Slezevicius recording] It is obvious that Latvia's unilateral decision on the contract with Amoco is quite opposite to the proposals that we repeatedly presented during the negotiations [with Latvia on the maritime border] to leave an opportunity for joint exploration of oil deposits in the disputed territory, thereby making the process of maritime border delimitation much smoother, and which the Latvians largely supported in the course of negotiations. Naturally, our position is different now, and we outlined this position in the statement [diplomatic note] by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The contents of the statement have been discussed with the president [Algirdas Brazauskas] more than once, and I believe that it perfectly reflects the situation that the bilateral relations of our countries now find themselves in. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prime Minister: Baltic Oil Prospecting To Begin

WS1011101395 Tallinn BNS in English 1937 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, November 9, BNS — Lithuania has decided to begin prospecting for oil in the Baltic Sea. This decision was adopted at a session of the administration on Wednesday, prime minister Adolfas Slezevicius reported.

At a press conference on Thursday, Slezevicius emphasized that the best solution would have been joint Lithuanian-Latvian exploration and drilling for oil. During its negotiations with Latvia, Lithuania had continually sought for joint operations with Latvia at the disputed oil sites.

The prime minister neither denied nor confirmed reports that representatives of the Swedish OPAB company were visiting Lithuania.

Slezevicius stated that, despite the unilateral action of the Latvian government in signing a contract with foreign firms and Lithuania's diplomatic note to Latvia, bilateral Lithuanian-Latvian relations would not necessarily deteriorate.

The premier hopes that the meeting between Lithuanian and Latvian experts, which began Thursday in Vilnius, would clarify a great deal.

Asked whether the conflict between Lithuania and Latvia would damage the countries' prospects for European Union membership, Slezevicius answered that "we are expected in the European Union free of conflicts with our neighbors." However, according to him, there is no basis to say "that Lithuanian-Latvian relations are so tense that further relations are impossible."

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President Brazauskas Meets Latvians on Oil Dispute

LD1011134295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas met a Latvian delegation which arrived in Vilnius yesterday. They are trying to clarify the situation which has emerged after Latvia signed a contract with U.S. and Swedish petroleum companies on oil exploration in a part of the Baltic shelf which is disputed by Lithuania and Latvia.

After the meeting, Algirdas Brazauskas told correspondents that the original copy of the contract between Lithuania and Latvia [as heard] will be shown to Lithuanian Ambassador to Latvia Rimantas Karazija, and Lithuanian legal experts will have an opportunity to examine the document.

According to Algirdas Brazauskas, the zone for exploration for which a licence has been granted is in strongly disputed territory, and this, Brazauskas stressed, violates Lithuania's sovereignty. Brazauskas expressed his wish that both Lithuanian and Latvian people should be kept informed about developments in Lithuanian and Latvian negotiations. Brazauskas suggested that Latvia should not make hasty decisions, should continue negotiations between governmental delegations, and should try to agree that the size of the disputed area is reduced as much as possible.

Algirdas Brazauskas stressed that Lithuania will stick to the stance outlined in the diplomatic note already presented to the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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